



Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is the largest not-for-profit autism specific service provider based in New South Wales.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability, with varying degrees of intervention and support necessary for most people across their lifespan. With the right interventions, many children and adults with ASD show marked improvements. Interventions vary greatly from person to person, from age to age and according to the severity of the disability.

Aspect is committed to providing the best, evidence-based interventions available for its clients and is increasingly engaged in researching and evaluating the services it provides.

Aspect was founded in 1966 and its specialised autism educational program is now the largest in the world.

Aspect receives approximately 80% of its funding from State and Federal Governments, but relies on fundraising, fee-for-service and investment income to fund an additional \$4.5 million (and growing) to sustain a range of important programs for young children, adolescents, and families, in order to achieve Aspect's vision of overcoming the isolation of autism.

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Aspect provides information,  
education and other services  
through partnerships with people  
with autism spectrum disorders,  
their families and communities...

...with *passion* and *reason*.

**pas·sion** (noun) 1 intense emotion: intense or overpowering emotion.  
2 intense enthusiasm: a keen interest in a particular subject or activity.

**rea·son** (noun) 1 power of orderly thought: the power of being able to think in a logical and rational manner.



*Aspect's Patron John Doyle with Scott, a student at Aspect's Vern Barnett School for Children with Autism.*

# A message from our Patron, John Doyle

This past year as Patron of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been one of appreciation and reflection for me. It has been wonderful learning about the extraordinary work that Aspect does for the autism community, and the exciting plans for the future. At the same time it has been sobering placing my own family's experience in context.

When my sister Jennifer came into the world in rural Australia in the 1950s, the syndrome was unheard of. She was placed under the general umbrella of 'subnormal' and was given no chance of ever being able to contribute to, or be part of, common society. There were no treatments available. As a result, in many ways, the blinds came down on our family and Mum and Dad were locked into a lifetime of care. I am still in awe of their achievements. While Dad held down two jobs, Mum managed our corner store and cared for her aged mother while at the same time attending to Jen. In those years she taught her to walk, to eat, to speak, to read and to write.

Jen was diagnosed at age ten. I can still recall the euphoria when they returned from Sydney after meeting with Dr Vern Barnett—Jennifer was autistic. She is now 50 and still lives with Mum and Dad, and while there were years of almost impossible frustration, anger and difficulty, she has now settled into being a person with a sharp sense of humour and a genuine love of family get-togethers. Mercifully, tantrums are now rare.

Mum, Dad, my sisters and brother, my wife Deanna and I visited Aspect's Central Coast School last year, and were amazed at what is being achieved. Mum was particularly moved by what she saw and heard, and by the progress being made by so many children with autism. The fact is that in all those years she had only ever seen one other autistic child!

The recent release of the Australian prevalence report has confirmed what Aspect has promoted for years – that there are many, many more families in our community than previously thought who have a child with an autism spectrum disorder. As a personal observation, I have come into contact with two former colleagues both with children who have the disorder. My wish for all of you living with autism is that you will have access to timely and effective interventions. My wish for all Aspect's committed staff is that you continue to find ways to make your vision come true: to overcome the isolation of autism.

I am inspired by the work that is being done by Aspect, and thank each and every one of you who supports this great organisation. Please continue to give generously so that more families living with this lifelong disability can take hope from seeing their son or daughter make progress.

With best wishes,



John Doyle  
Patron

## Highlights

Aspect increased the number of places on offer in its schools by **65** to a total of **494**

Aspect established **9** new satellite classes with an additional 4 satellite classes opening in Term 1 2007, taking the total to **57** classes

7 065 families were in contact with Aspect directly or indirectly, **↑18%**

**692** children received early intervention, **↑8%**

324 000 unique visitors viewed the Aspect website, **↑49%**

Aspect's turnover was **\$23.3 million**, **↑12%**

Government funding increased by **\$2.3 million**

Aspect achieved a balanced budget

# Report from Aspect's Board Chair and CEO



*Adrian Ford, Chief Executive Officer and Peter Werner, Board Chair.*

Aspect's commitment to people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is evidenced through our staff, volunteers, families and supporters. Their passion underpins the organisation's ability to fulfil its mission and vision and to uphold its values. By utilising that passion, Aspect directs resources in a reasoned way to ensure the organisation is financially sound and can keep growing through the services it offers and furthering research, to assist more families living with ASD.

Aspect is successful because it understands the balance between passion and reason.

## Overview

2006 was another year of significant growth. The number of student places in our schools increased by 65, bringing the total to 494 places, resulting in an increase in government funding of around \$2 million. The first regional group of satellite classes opened in the Riverina and the 'Someone to turn to...' program was established on the Far North Coast. We opened the Acacia bequest garden; celebrated our 40th birthday in Autism Awareness Week; established a partnership with Autism SA; and welcomed our new Patron, John Doyle.

The results below highlight the key outcomes from an exceptional year of service provision, meeting or exceeding our targets.

- Aspect was in contact with 4 933 people with an ASD, up from 4 475 the previous year.
- 3 317 people with ASD and/or their families had contacted Aspect's Autism Information Line, up from 3 009 in 2005.
- The number of other service providers that work with people with ASD who contacted the Information Line for assistance jumped significantly to 2 132, up from 1 519 a year earlier.
- Aspect entered into a partnership with Autism SA to increase services to people with ASD. As a

## Thank you to our supporters

State and Federal Government funders [Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs](#) • [Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training](#) • [Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services](#) • [NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care](#) • [NSW Department of Education and Training](#) • [NSW Health Bequests Estate of Eva Elizabeth Henderson](#) • [Estate of John Illingworth Dudley](#) • [Estate of Kathleen Breen](#) • [Estate of Shirley Fay Overton](#) • [Estate of Sybil Daphne Tickle](#) • [Estate of Vincent James Healey](#) • [Estate of Violet May Byrne Trusts and Foundations AMP Foundation](#) • [ASX-Reuters Charity Foundation](#) • [Baxter Charitable Foundation](#) • [Energy Australia Employees Handicapped Children's Appeal](#) • [Ernst & Young Foundation](#) • [Henry H Roth Charitable Foundation](#)

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## Report from Aspect's Board Chair and CEO

first step Aspect's parent support program, 'Someone to turn to...', has been successfully established in Adelaide under licence.

- Aspect's website [www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au) continued to develop as a key source of information with 324 000 visits.

### Corporate Plan 04/06

The scale, scope and structure of the organisation grew substantially during the implementation of the Corporate Plan 04/06. 2006 marked the final year of this plan; the extent of its success is detailed throughout this Annual Report.

One of the main achievements of the Corporate Plan 04/06 was the introduction of a new constitution in line with governance principles and inclusive of what we now know as ASD. This in turn was also reflected in the new name 'Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)'. A new name was followed by John Doyle taking over as Patron.

The main results that reflect the scale of these changes across the organisation included: the growth in contact with people with ASD; more people receiving early intervention; more school places; more services on offer including regional areas; increasing website traffic and inquiries to the information line; and an overall growth in revenue. As detailed later in the Treasurer's Report then in the Financial Results, Aspect achieved a budget surplus.

The scope of the organisation widened with the development of a range of projects that provide families and individuals with a focus on positive behaviour support. These projects had the capacity to include

people with other behavioural issues outside of ASD. The intention remains to be a specialist autism organisation but with the flexibility to manage some other clients where it is relevant in terms of funding and within our range of expertise.

The structural change was perhaps the most significant step forward in this plan, giving the organisation the opportunity to extend beyond New South Wales. The prelude to this change was the decision by the Board in 2004 that Aspect is a service provider organisation—not a peak body—although it continues to undertake advocacy for the community of people affected by ASD.

In the past three years the organisation has changed fundamentally. The structural change was a major investment by the organisation in its foundations. In response to the ever-growing need in the community of people affected by ASD, Aspect continued to grow significantly as it extended its reach.

### Strategic Plan 07/09

In July 2006 Aspect's Board approved the new Strategic Plan 07/09 setting out a clear direction to continue to achieve more positive outcomes for people with ASD and their families over the next three years.

The Strategic Plan was developed around the people who make Aspect what it is today: people with an ASD and their families, the staff of Aspect, governments, donors, partners, and Aspect's Board of Directors.

The plan recognised that there continues to be high unmet need in the community of people affected by

autism and that Aspect must do all that it can to continue to extend services.

Secondly, Aspect's comprehensive educational approach brings together a range of evidence-based practices for working with people with ASD. Over the next three years Aspect will continue to develop the approach as new knowledge and experience is gained by further exploring a number of other evidence-based models.

Thirdly, Aspect will continue to focus on transitioning people with ASD to more inclusive opportunities in the wider community as they acquire the skills and experience to manage in these less restrictive environments.

Fourthly, Aspect is involved in a number of research projects and in particular with early intervention and its satellite class program. During the next three years Aspect will complete these projects and report on their findings to both contribute to the knowledge in the field and improve practice.

Fifthly, Aspect will place more emphasis on building capacity in families and communities so that they are more supported in the task of caring for their family member with ASD.

Finally, within Aspect new resources will be applied to supporting and retaining its staff in this era of near full employment so that we are in the position to offer the best service we can. Aspect will also be looking to grow its funding base so that it can be even more financially sustainable.

### In 2007...

Some exciting initiatives are already under way. An early intervention resource kit designed

## Thank you to our supporters

Knights Allan St Ruth Annuity Fund • Leeuwin Estate Foundation Pty Ltd • Macquarie Bank Foundation • Michael & Mary Whelan Trust • Perpetual's Charitable Gift Fund • Reserve Bank Benevolent Fund • St George Foundation Ltd • The Bluesand Foundation • The Fairbridge Foundation • The R A Gale Foundation • Walter Campbell Memorial Trust Clubs, Groups and Schools 2CH Massey Park Social Golf Club • Artarmon Masonic Hall Company Pty Ltd • Avalon Beach RSL Club Limited • Avoca Beach Ladies Bowls • Ballina RSL Club • Bathurst Quilters • Bellbird Committee • Berkeley Vale Coastlife Church Women's Group • Botany RSL Sub-branch Club • Broken Hill North Public School • Buniyip Special Needs Group Inc • Canterbury Bulldogs League Club • Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club Ltd • Central Coast Country Craft Fair

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to assist families and early childhood professionals in their roles of managing young children with ASD will be available for distribution in September. The kit, funded by the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (DADHC), comprises a DVD and a manual.

The schools continue to grow with four new satellite classes already opened in Term 1, 2007, including the new regional satellite unit in Alstonville on the Far North Coast of NSW. The success of Aspect's satellite program is being increasingly recognised nationally and internationally, and it therefore has the potential for further growth and research.

## The national ASD community

Aspect continues to support the development of the national peak body for ASD, the Autism Council of Australia. In November 2006 the peak body approved a new constitution and a new name, the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

In March 2007 it released its report on the prevalence of ASD in Australia—the first such report commissioned in Australia. The research was undertaken by Dr John Wray and Dr Katrina Williams along with a number of their colleagues. It was funded by the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The report found a national prevalence rate of 1 in 160 among children aged 6–12 years, or 10 625 children. When this is extrapolated over the whole population, it is estimated that there are 125 000 people with ASD in Australia.

Aspect supports the Advisory Board's call to action for governments and the wider community to respond to this urgent need, which is no longer just a reflection of the autism community's perception; it is based on the release of this important factual research.

For more information on the prevalence report, please go to [www.autismaus.com.au](http://www.autismaus.com.au).

## Acknowledgements

Aspect thanks the Board for their ongoing support. The Board met nine times in 2006, supported by six committees: Finance & Audit, Client Services, Strategy, Fundraising, Remuneration and Research. We are indebted to the members of these committees for their work on behalf of Aspect. The Board acknowledges the contributions of Richard Jennings and Gary Stanton, who both resigned from the Board in 2006. The Board particularly thanks Richard for 14 years of service. We would also like to thank our honorary solicitor, Mark Bowen, of Bowen Legal, who provides legal advice to Aspect on a pro bono basis.

We are sincerely grateful to our former Patrons, The Hon Tim Fischer and Judy Brewer Fischer, who stepped down from their role in May 2006 after seven years' service to Aspect. Their presence and public commitment to the cause of ASD during this period has helped to bring the issue to national attention, paving the way for the future. They conducted themselves with a humility and generosity that was appreciated by all. They were delighted that they could hand over their role to our new Patron, John Doyle.

John has been instrumental in raising awareness of ASD, and we are immensely grateful to him for sharing his story with such passion. He has helped lift the profile of ASD in the community consciousness, and this in turn will lead not only to greater understanding and acceptance of autism, but also more passionate resolve across the community to provide services to all families living with this disability. Thank you, John.

We thank the State and Federal Governments for their extensive support. In particular, we thank: the NSW Department of Education and Training; the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care; NSW Health; the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training; the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous

Affairs; and the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services.

We thank those organisations who have partnered with us to deliver programs and research. More families have had access to meaningful programs in a timely manner thanks to our partnerships with the NSW Department of Education & Training (DET) and the Catholic Education Office, early intervention centres (in Sydney and on the Far North Coast), along with universities for research and teaching.

We thank our wonderful employees and volunteers, whether they work directly with clients or behind the scenes—without them Aspect would just be an ambitious idea, not the vibrant and talented organisation it is today. Our teachers and clinicians, administrative staff, fundraisers and our management team do a truly remarkable job.

Importantly we thank our clients—the children and adults with an autism spectrum disorder and their families who believe in Aspect's work, and who motivate us to strive for the very best interventions. We will ensure we are delivering the most effective programs for you and your children by continuing to research our interventions. With passion and reason we commit to you that we will continue to focus on successful outcomes for our existing and new programs, and work together to overcome the isolation of autism.



Adrian Ford  
Chief Executive Officer



Peter Werner  
Board Chair

# Treasurer's Report

At 2% of our \$23 million turnover, Aspect's surplus for the year ended 31 December 2006 of \$468 404 (\$1 088 460 in 2005) appears relatively modest. However, the result also highlights how finely the budget for Aspect is tuned.

This surplus represents a positive variance of \$125 773 over budget. This variance was attributable to:

- realised gains of \$306 242 resulting from sales of investments from the strategic portfolio;
- unbudgeted grants received late in the year;
- stronger dividend/interest earnings from our investments; and
- higher fee income.

In my opinion, the result has come from a strong effort across the organisation driven by a rigorous budgeting discipline, clear communication and regular monitoring by the finance team. It also requires the cooperation and acceptance of accountability by the employees of all the other divisions.

A feature of the budget process is the integration with the Aspect's Business Plan. In an increasingly complex and growing organisation, with the added stress of dealing with scarce resources, this linkage will continue to be a critical factor in sustaining the future of Aspect.

Income for the year increased by 12% to \$23 332 334 compared with the previous year, while expenditure increased by 16% to \$22 863 930

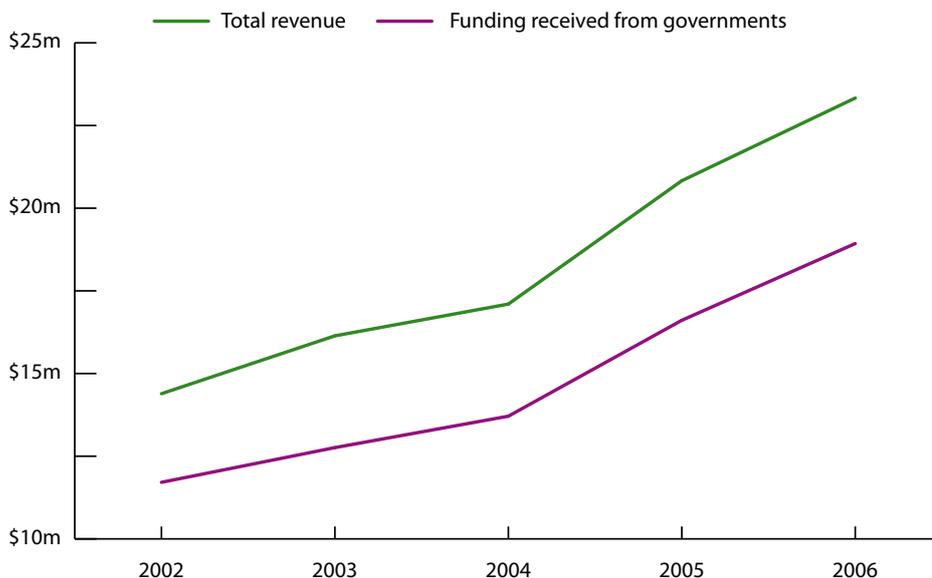
producing the surplus of \$468 404. Government funding continued to be the major source of income for Aspect—81% of total income (80% in 2005). The Education and Research Division accounted for the majority of Aspect's expenditure (68%) as in 2005. Central Office administrative costs were once again below the 10% level (8.5% compared to 8.4% in 2005).

The increase in income was mainly due to a 14% increase in government funding to \$18 932 938, up from \$16 607 902 in 2005. With new funding programs being introduced throughout the year, this increase reflects the confidence that governments have in Aspect's capacity to deliver services to its clients. The funding was applied to the continued expansion of school and satellite programs, as well as to meet increasing award costs and other costs subject to CPI increases.

Fundraising continued to provide an invaluable contribution, generating \$1 066 026 for the 2006 year, representing 5% of total income (8% in 2005). This funding allows Aspect to deliver many of its services that are either not funded or not fully funded by government.

Total fees received were \$2 310 823 which accounted for 10% of all income received by Aspect. Aspect continues to focus on improving policies and procedures aimed at ensuring fees are accurately recorded and collected in accordance with approved debt management guidelines. This has resulted in debts over 90 days being

Total Revenue and Government Funding



## Thank you to our supporters

Central Coast Leagues Club • Central Coast Wine Appreciation Club • Chester Hill–Carramar RSL Club • Corrimal Women's Bowling Club • CWA Terrigal • CWA Woolcraft • Dee Why RSL • Disability Assistance for Shoalhaven Inc • Earlwood–Bardwell Park Sports Bowling Club • EBP Sports Women's Bowling Club • Engadine Lions Club Incorporated • Epping War Widows' Association • Hillingdon Ascham School • Illawarra Quilters Inc • Kariong Public School • Kurri Kurri Lions • Lady Gowrie Child Centre—Sydney • Lions Club of Engadine • Lions Club of Frenchs Forest Inc • Liverpool Chapter No 81 Order of the Eastern Star • Macquarie Street Social Club • Mortdale Chapter No 36 • Mustang Owners Club of Australia Inc (NSW Inc) • NSW Masonic Auxiliary • P & F Central Coast School • P & F Hunter School • P & F South Coast School

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reduced to their lowest level ever. From my perspective this result is magnificent because it reflects the value attached to the fee earning services which we deliver our clients and it frees up resources to direct to the many other areas of need.

Aspect's investment portfolio was valued at \$4.31 million as at 31 December 2006 (an increase of \$650 000 compared to 31 December 2005) and enjoyed a return of 14%. The two main factors were the favourable investment conditions over 2006 and improved management of cash. The investment portfolio provides the crucial foundation for Aspect's financial health.

Expenditure by Aspect was consistent with the 2006 Business Plan. Given the low budget margins, Aspect continued to focus on improving internal controls aimed at ensuring all costs are carefully monitored and kept within budgeted targets.

Salary and wages costs increased by 18% to \$16 935 008 (compared with 23% in 2005). The increases were due to the ongoing expansion of Aspect's school and satellite class

programs as well as the need to pay appropriate remuneration to our employees in line with changing market conditions and awards.

In regard to other expenses, travel costs, which represents the highest non-salary expense, was contained to an increase of 12% to \$882 584 (23% increase in 2005). This was assisted by petrol prices stabilising during the year.

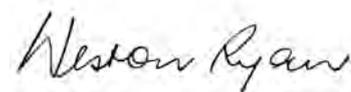
Insurance premiums continued to reduce for the third successive year (\$533 300 in 2004, \$486 922 in 2005 and \$457 055 in 2006). This can be explained by further reductions in the cost of workers compensation insurance, due to fewer claims being lodged. This is an especially pleasing trend to report as it conveys one of the most important non-financial results: that Aspect continues to improve as a healthy and safe environment for its employees.

Other costs were in line with the 2006 budget.

Consequently, from a net asset point of view, the financial position of Aspect improved by 9% to \$6 238 027 in 2006 up from \$5 727 286 in 2005.

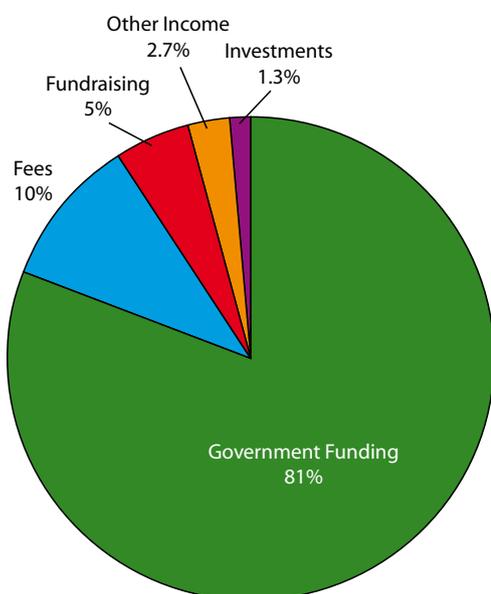
Liquidity remained strong despite cash and cash equivalents decreasing by 10% to \$2 102 977 at the end of 2006 from \$2 323 971 at the end of 2005.

My sincere thanks go to my colleagues on the Board, particularly those on the Finance & Audit Committee, for their support and focus on the financial operation of Aspect. Special thanks are extended to the Director, Corporate Services, Mr David Renneberg and his team for taking firm leadership in the improved management of Aspect's finances, strongly supported by the organisation's management team.

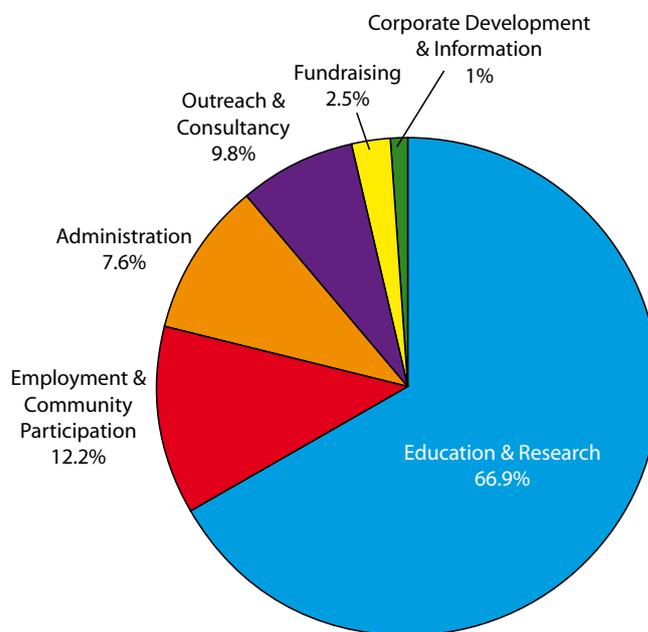


Weston Ryan  
Honorary Treasurer

Sources of Income



Expenditure by Division



# Life Governors and Life Members

## Life Governors

Mr Ian Barnett  
Mr Jim Bryant  
Mr Rick Damelian  
Mr David Foster  
Mr Gerald Harvey  
Mrs Betty Hatch  
Mr L Rawstorne  
Mr Ray Seager  
Mrs Eleanor Spence AM  
Dr Andrew Vern Barnett AM MBE  
Mr A Whelan

Mr John Gibbs  
Mrs Patricia Gibbs  
Mrs Marie Goodare  
Mrs Nancy Graham-Taylor  
Mrs J Hall  
Mrs Marie Hayward  
Dr Noel Hodge  
Lady Sybil Joel  
Ms Judith Johnson  
Mrs Olivia Keighley  
Mrs Joyce Kennedy  
Mr Errol Larbalestier

Dr Jacqueline Roberts  
Mr Basil Sellers AM  
Mr John Shand  
Mrs Jean Slaughter  
Mr Paul C J Smith  
Mr David Stead  
Mrs Margaret Stead  
Mrs Margaret Vernon  
Mrs E Ward

We were saddened by the death in the past twelve months of Life Members Barbara Lawson, Cecile Herman and Lewis Herman.

## Life Members

Mr Roger Allen OAM  
Mr George Andrews  
Ms Julie Anthony AM OBE  
Mr Mark Bowen  
Mrs Val Browne OAM  
Mrs Geraldine Bryant  
Mr Arthur Byrne  
Mr J C Crow  
Professor Peter Dodd  
Mrs H Emanuel  
Mr Mark Fogarty  
Mr John Gerahty

Dr P Mayne  
Mr Michael McColm  
Mrs Marjorie McDonald OAM  
Mrs Jill McGrath  
Mr Tony McGrath  
Mrs Shirley McIntosh  
Mrs C Mount  
Mr Ron Mulock  
Mrs Claire O'Keefe  
Mr Ostilio Pisanu  
Dr Gretchen Poiner  
Dr A Polyblank  
Mr D Robbins

Barbara was the force behind the Wentworthville Autistic Children's Committee, which raised money for many years to benefit Aspect and our Western Sydney School for Children with Autism.

Cecile and Lewis had a long involvement with our organisation, which started when their daughter Sharon won the title of Miss Golden Treasure 1978 in our Quest.

They will be missed and Aspect is very grateful for their generous and lasting support.

## Honorary Solicitor

Mr Mark Bowen,  
Bowen Legal

## Thank you to our supporters

P & F South East Sydney School • P & F Vern Barnett School • P & F Western Sydney School • Panthers—Cardiff • Penny Presents • Pittwater RSL Club Limited • Port Stephens Busy B's • Revesby Workers' Club • Rotary Club of Caringbah Inc • Rotary Club of Cobar • Rotary Club of Dee Why • Rotary Club of Frenchs Forest Inc • Rotary Club of Neutral Bay • Rotary Club of Terrigal • Scarlett Ladies Inc • St Edward's College • St George Leagues Club Limited • St Patrick's Primary School • Terrigal Leisure Learning Patchwork Group • The Haven Quilters • Wests Illawarra • Will-ngurra Association • Wings Away Inc NSW • Wollongong Bulls Rugby League Football Club • Woonona Womens Bowling Club • Wyong Shire CDSE Local Committee  
Corporate Donors and Sponsors Accident & Health • ACE Insurance • Albert Investments Pty Ltd • Allco Finance Group • Alliance Brands • Allianz •



*Declan attended an Aspect early intervention program in 2006 and has now transitioned to mainstream kindergarten.*

# Fundraising

Whether you gave \$10 or \$10 000 to support Aspect's many valuable services, from the bottom of our hearts we say a huge "Thank You".

We couldn't do it without you. Government funding just doesn't cover every service we offer to people affected by autism spectrum disorders.

Fundraising in 2006 again provided opportunities to raise much needed funds and engage our supporters with events and activities, to have fun and dig deep whether taking part in a school Trivia night, a fun run or a gala dinner.

## In memory

One of the most significant events for 2006 was the official opening of the Acacia Garden, a naturally landscaped garden at Aspect's Central Office, built with the corporate support of Bovis Lend Lease. Officiated by Senator Bronwyn Bishop, the event provided the opportunity to unveil 39 memorial bricks and two commemorative plaques on seating, a memorial to the many bequestors whose generosity and foresight allows us to expand our services and plan for the future with confidence.

The opening of the garden also provided an opportunity for the families and friends of Aspect's bequestors, members of our bequest circle and supporters, Board members and guests, to join in the celebration and be entertained by children from Aspect's Vern Barnett School. We

are planning a second memorial event for September this year.

## Trusts and Foundations

Aspect is very grateful to the many charitable trusts and foundations which support our work each year, some of whom such as the Baxter Charitable Foundation have been with us since the beginning. In particular in 2006 we would like to thank the following:

Leeuwin Estate Foundation which provided a gift of \$50 000 towards our early intervention research project; long term supporters the St George Foundation which supported the playground project at our Western Sydney School; and the Fairbridge Foundation which provided funds for resources for our Diagnostic Assessment Service.

## Corporate supporters

Aspect is privileged to be supported by a range of corporate businesses which commit to providing direct financial or in-kind support, engage in or host their own activities, buy raffle tickets, attend our functions, encourage payroll supporters and generally promote the cause of autism in their workplace. We would like to particularly thank Ernst & Young. We are indebted to families and supporters who identify opportunities for corporate relationships to develop.

We were privileged again to be one of 25 beneficiaries of the ASX-Reuters Foundation, contributing \$17 000 to our net income. Many

thanks if you supported Aspect by buying raffle tickets.

We are also grateful to the many registered clubs who provide funding each year via ClubsNSW's 'Community Development and Support Expenditure' (CDSE) scheme. This year a total of \$60 000 was received from ten registered clubs to provide assessment test kits and speech therapy resources for our six schools for children with autism.

## Event success

Our annual Comedy Night under the leadership of Andrea and Peter Werner was again a great success thanks to Mikey Robins, the Sandman, Tony Squires, Tommy Dean, Subby Valentine, Nick Sun, Ben Hewett, Andrew Taylor Management and our loyal supporters who laughed their way through the night. The evening helped us raise over \$36 000. We are again indebted to the generosity of Jason Ree from Diamond Design for providing a stunning sapphire and diamond ring to auction, and to De Bortoli Wines, our 40th Anniversary sponsors, for so generously providing the wine enjoyed on the night.

Board member David Epper's Celebrity Golf Day is a great event in the fundraising year, keenly supported by his corporate associates. After an exciting celebrity auction held at Bel Paese, North Sydney, the week before, the players lined up for a challenging day of golf at Manly Golf Course followed by drinks and canapés. The event helped us raise over \$61 000.

## Thank you to our supporters

Hitachi Construction Machinery (Australia) Pty Ltd • Hunter Resort • Inglewood Wine • Innoxia • IPC Employment Pty Ltd • ITS Management Pty Ltd • IUS Broking • Jardine Lloyd Thompson • Joh Bailey • Keysun • KPMG • Leighton Holdings Limited • M B Insurance Group • Macquarie Links Charity Challenge • Mainbrace Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd • Man Investments Australia Limited • Manly Golf Club • Marsh Pty Ltd • McCabe Terrill Lawyers • Milsons Restaurant • Nokia • Peppers Retreats and Resorts • Pharmacare • Phoenix Restaurants • Professional Innovators Pty Ltd • Quest International Australia Pty Limited • Quiksilver Boardriders Club • Ritchies Stores • River Capital Pty Ltd • Samsung Electronics Australia • Scott & Broad • Scott Fullarton Valuations Pty Ltd • Sellers Group • Shoal Bay Resort and Spa • Sinclair Consulting Group Pty Ltd • Skyglobe Pty Ltd

Sincere thanks to David and his team and to the many celebrities such as Andrew Daddo, Guy Leach, Wayne Gardner and Wayne Pearce who generously donated their time.

We are very grateful to Gary "Smokey" Dawson and his team for all their hard work and for the donation presented to Aspect from the third Macquarie Links Charity Challenge. Thanks for corporates who attended both the golf in July and the Gala Dinner in November, this year with a Hawaiian elegance theme and Paul Martell as comedian.

### Finding creative ways to give

Aspect joined forces with The Spastic Centre to offer two Charity Challenge Adventures, cycling from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi in Vietnam, and trekking to Machu Picchu in Peru. More than \$13 500 was raised when nine people, including three Aspect school staff, completed their adventures in July 2006. As Vern Barnett School teacher Becky said by email at the end of the challenge, "I've just raised \$5 275 and cycled approximately 580 kilometres. I'm feeling tired but very proud of myself". For September and October 2007 Inspired Adventures is organising the Trek and Bike Asia adventures and at time of going to press we have 16 parents and supporters who have signed up and are already in training.

Did you get the chance to purchase a calendar this year? We're very proud of our calendar, colourfully displaying art by adults at our two Community Participation centres, Carlton and

Croydon. It was a sell-out success so we'll print more this year. We were flattered that Rachel Kerry from Perpetual Trustees declared it was the best calendar they had received and liked the focus on artwork by adults.

Our first Emirates Raffle (with support from St George Corporate and Business Bank) resulted in Pauline Wall buying the lucky business class return ticket. Pauline's been supporting Aspect for years to the extent that she could afford and had never been out of Australia. What a great reward for a loyal supporter!

### So what does the income from fundraising provide?

Fundraising plays a vital role in funding critical services and resources which would otherwise be unfunded and therefore not sustainable—for example, many of our early intervention services which rely on more than \$290 000 a year to survive. Likewise, Aspect's Autism Information Line, the first port of call which provides a lifeline to parents overwhelmed by a diagnosis of autism in a child, and our volunteer parent support program, 'Someone to turn to...' are both totally reliant on private funding and require in excess of \$150 000 each year. There are so many other ways your donations support services or allow a family to attend a workshop.

We continue to raise funds to support Aspect's plans for more services to offer to more people affected by ASD.



- SLE Worldwide Australia • Smartline • Special Children's Christmas Parties • Spotlight Newcastle • Stephens Tilley Services Subway Hurstville • Terrigal Butcher • The Jammy Gallery Ltd • The Sebel Reef House & Spa • Tulloch Wines • Ulladulla Guest House • Valad Funds Management Ltd • Valad Property Group • Vinta Group Pty Ltd • Wamberal Fruitland • Werner Venues & Hotels • Westpac Individuals Stephen Abbott • R Anderson • Steven Anderson • George Andrews • Phillip Andrews • Simone Arnott • Angela Aston James • Peter Banks • Diane Beers • Peter Black • Ed Bolla • John Bower • Helen Bristow • Arthur Byrne • R Cahill • Doreen Carter • C Cathcart • Helen Chadwick • Wai Chan • Margaret Conway-Mann • Geoffrey Cowell • Barbara Cummins • Kelly Dale • A Davey & R Neild • Michael Davis • Gary "Smokey" Dawson • Tommy Dean • P & M Devlin

*continued on page 15*



- Base school/unit
- Satellite class
- Service for adults
- Service for families

### Metropolitan Sydney

- Central Office
- Aspect Western Sydney Centre for Autism
- Vern Barnett School for Children with Autism
- Western Sydney School for Children with Autism
- South East Sydney School for Children with Autism\*
- Satellite classes
- BUILDING BLOCKS® Early Intervention for Autism
- "Someone to turn to..."™ Parent Support Program
- School Outreach Service

- Behaviour Intervention Service
- Recipe for Success
- Project CASS
- Employment Services
- Southside Community Participation
- Hornsby Accommodation Service
- Wahroonga Accommodation Service

\* Includes units in Peakhurst, Bourke Street (Surry Hills) and Kirrawee

### NSW Central Coast and Hunter

- Central Coast School for Children with Autism
- Hunter School for Children with Autism
- Satellite classes

### NSW South Coast

- South Coast School for Children with Autism
- Satellite classes

### NSW Far North Coast

- Far North Coast Centre for Autism
- Starting Blocks
- "Someone to turn to..."™ Parent Support Program
- Satellite classes

### NSW Riverina

- Satellite classes

# Our Services

In March 2007 the Prevalence Report on ASD in Australia highlighted the need for families to have access to timely and effective services. Clearly this is Aspect's No. 1 priority.

Through a combination of direct services, capacity building for families, partnerships, information and training, funded through increased government commitment and Aspect's own fundraising initiatives, Aspect aims to give families and professionals the tools to better manage people with ASD.

## Diagnostic Assessment

A separate 'Diagnostic Assessment Unit' was set up during 2006 and it completed 87 diagnostic assessments. Overall, approximately 70% of children referred to the service were given an ASD diagnosis.

In addition the service has been involved in the development of national guidelines for the assessment of ASD in Australia in collaboration with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; and is involved in pre- and post-intervention assessment tasks for Aspect's Australian Research Council 'Early Intervention Research Project'.

## Early Childhood

Studies around the world agree that early diagnosis and early intervention for children with ASD are critical for successful outcomes. Aspect provides a range of early intervention programs working directly with clients and also

partners with other services to deliver programs in other parts of the State.

692 children received early intervention services from Aspect in 2006, up from 639 the previous year. The early intervention programs include 'Building Blocks', 'Jigsaw' and early childhood programs.

An evaluation of 'Building Blocks' early intervention for autism programs showed extremely positive outcomes.

Aspect's Far North Coast Centre for Autism provided a 12-month weekly 'Starting Blocks' program in partnership with five local service providers to 24 young children and their parents.

## The school years

Amongst a range of educational approaches used with children and young people with ASD, Aspect has developed a research-based comprehensive approach to educational interventions. The term 'comprehensive' refers to specialised, intensive programs which typically include an educational or skill development focus, together with therapeutic interventions for problem behaviour, often using a multi-disciplinary team including parents. Intervention takes place in multiple settings, including home, school and the community.

Research endorses individualised comprehensive educational/behavioural intervention as the primary approach for all children with ASD, supplemented by a

developmental approach, medical approach and others as required.

Aspect was founded 41 years ago, and its first service was a school. Its specialised autism educational program is now the largest in the world. Aspect operates six schools, the focus of which is to give students with ASD the skills to transition into mainstream education and the community.

The total student enrolment for Aspect's schools increased from 429 in 2005 to 494 in 2006, a 15% increase. In 2006 there were 220 base school places and 274 satellite class places.

As part of the transition philosophy, Aspect operates a unique 'satellite' or 'off-site' class program in partnership with both the NSW Department of Education & Training and the Catholic Education Office.

Aspect established 9 new satellite classes including the first regional group of satellite classes in the Riverina. At the end of 2006 there were 24 classes in DET schools and 30 in Catholic Education Office schools. 57 Aspect specialised autism satellite classes are currently in operation in mainstream schools throughout NSW.

In line with Aspect's goal of transitioning students to more inclusive educational settings, 53 students moved to mainstream classes, 20 to support classes in regular schools, 26 to special schools, one to post school options and 10 to other settings. This made a total

## Thank you to our supporters

Charles & Elwyn Difrancesco • Florence Dixon • John Doyle • Jill Dymond • David Epper • Kay Farrell • John Ferraro • Adrian Ford • Catherine Forster • Trent Franklin • John Gerahty • Scott & Rhonda Gibbons • John Gibbs • Patricia Gibbs • L Glynn • Gary Gould • Nancy Graham • Shirley Gray • Terry Greer • John Haydon • Lawrence Haynes • Jillain Hepburn • Ben Hewett • Mr Hockey • Greg Holland • Ross Howard • Geoffrey Hyde • Guy Jacobson • Kara Jeffrees • Judith Johnson • Karen Johnson • Patrick Jones • Shirley Jones • Michele Jutrisa • Catherine Kater • Marie Kerridge • Kingsbury-West Family • Jeff Kingston • Marion Kingston • Lynnette Kok • Coral Kolmann • Nathalie Kulakowski • Andrew Langley • Joan Langley • James Laphorne • Christopher Lee • Harry Loughnan • B Mackay • Grant Maguire • Claudia Maher • Ben Maiorana

*continued on page 16*

## Our Services

of 110 school students transitioning to more inclusive settings, up from 82 in 2005, the best result to date.

The Transition Survey, a three year study developed to determine the long term outcomes of students who had transitioned from an Aspect school setting, was completed in 2006. It delivered a positive outcome—96% have remained in the same school and type of class after 24 months.

A transition guide, *'Effective Support Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders Transitioning to New Educational Settings'* was developed to facilitate the implementation of key strategies to support students with ASD following transition from Aspect schools.

The South Coast and South East Sydney Schools, along with the Western

Sydney School's Springwood satellite class, underwent successful registration and accreditation inspections. This follows the introduction of new Board of Studies NSW registration and accreditation requirements for non-government schools in 2005.

A self-review of the quality of autism programs in each of Aspect's schools, the 'Autism Quality Program Indicators', was completed. Areas requiring improvement were addressed in 2006.

### Outreach services

Aspect provides services through its 'School Outreach Service' to school-age children, their families and their schools through consultancy visits, social skills programs, student workshops and school in-services. The demand for consultancy services to regional areas has been particularly strong.

288 school-age children, families and schools were supported through consultancy visits, social skills programs, student workshops and school in-services during 2006.

The Sexuality and Social Development Course was completed by 15 adolescents and young adults who attended this innovative program, based on the work of Canadian sexologist Dr Isabelle Henault. An evaluation of the course where a score of '1' was Very Dissatisfied and '10' was Very Satisfied resulted in an average score of '9'.

### Regional

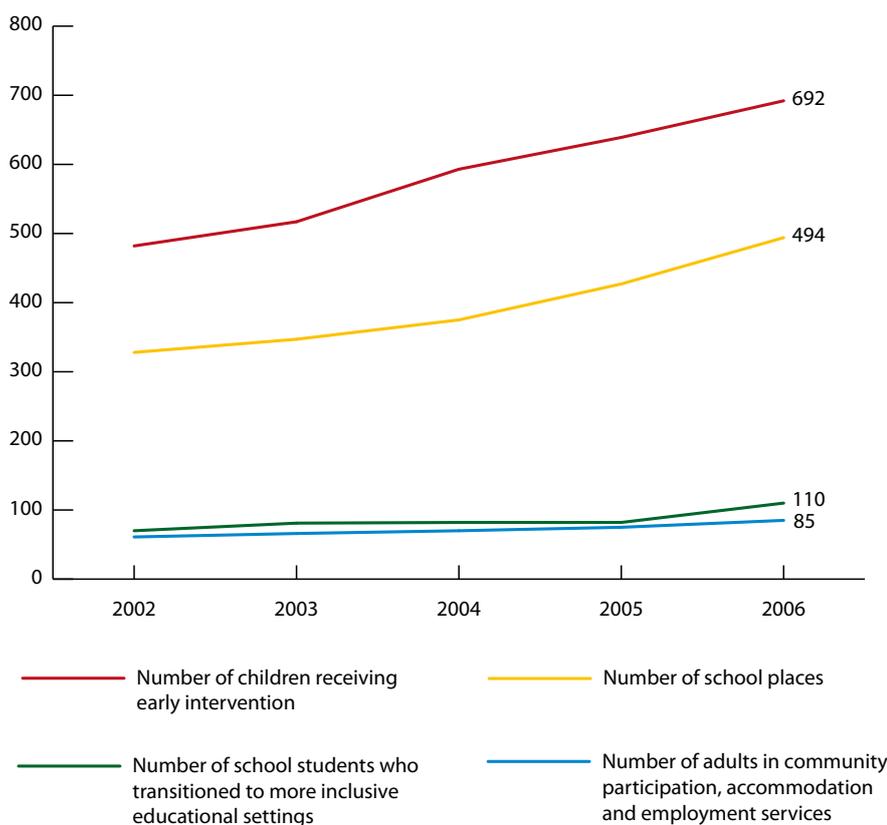
A major aim of Aspect's strategy continues to be the provision of more services in regional and rural parts of NSW. By the end of 2006, the number of regional centres had grown from three to five. Aspect's three regional schools, Hunter, Central Coast and South Coast continue to grow, with a total of 191 students enrolled in the three schools.

Aspect established the first group of regional satellite classes in the Riverina (Wagga Wagga and Albury). The 'Someone to turn to...' program was replicated on the Far North Coast of NSW with one-off funding through the 'Sustainable Regions' program of the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services.

### Adults

Aspect's services for adults, while relatively small, remain an important part of the organisation.

The development of 'Person-Centred Programs' for each adult client aims to reduce their social isolation and segregation, build friendships,



## Thank you to our supporters

Christopher Manning • Catherine Martin • M Martin • Ruth Martin • Patricia Masterson • Jill McGrath • Paul McLeay • Lyndall McNally • Anita Millard • Pam Morris • Mary Nelmes • Jenny O'Brien • Mark & Elizabeth O'Brien • Ms Orrell • David Paine • Katalin Paulik • Timothy Powell • Kerrie Anne Powell • Marie Robertson • Mikey Robins • Ajay Rochester • Wendy Russell • Anthony Segreto • Robert Shield • Colin Sinclair • Robert Small • Tony Squires • David Starte • Nick Sun • Andrew Taylor • Brian Tierney • Craig Turton • Subby Valentine • R Vandervaere • Annabelle Vant • David Veal • Margaret Vernon • Jane Wall • Irene Watkins • Andrea Werner • Peter Werner • Susan Whisker • Rory White • Pamela Whitehead • John Whiteman • Lynden Williams • John Woodman • David Veal • Mr Peter Winchester • Zamanos Family

engage them in preferred activities, and develop competencies while promoting respect for the individual with a disability. The person-centred approach aims to create a team of people who know and care about the individual with a disability, who come together to develop and share a dream for the person's future.

Aspect successfully fulfilled DADHC's Metropolitan North Integrated Monitoring Framework program with regard to the 'Disability Services Standards' and governance requirements.

Improvements were made in team building and support for accredited staff training at the Certificate III (14 staff) and Certificate IV (10 staff) levels across the adult services division.

### Community Participation programs (day programs)

The adults in Aspect's day programs enjoy a range of activities and learning including gardening, music appreciation, art, and yoga. There is a strong focus on developing relationships with the local community to improve clients' social skills and reduce anxiety levels.

Clients successfully transitioned from the closure of Northside Community Participation to other community participation programs.

The development of a music appreciation program and art program resulted in a calendar of artwork and an exhibition at The Jammy Gallery in Alexandria.

### Employment Services program ('Working Aspect')

Funded by the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) under their business services program, 'Working Aspect' operates five enclaves offering bush regeneration and maintenance work.

A 'Benchmark Accreditation' audit confirmed that Aspect met with the required standards

and achieved certification status for a further 12 months.

KPMG evaluated the Employment Services program, as part of the Full Capability Review required by FaCSIA, leading to an increase in support and resources for Employment Services.

### Accommodation

Aspect's two group homes at Wahroonga and Hornsby, operating since 1987, provide care and support for eight clients aged between 39 and 50 years, five of whom are employed on a full or part-time basis.

### Social Club

35 adults have attended one or more of the meetings of the Social Club for adults with Asperger's disorder, with the most popular events being restaurant dinners and guest speaker evenings.

### Families

Aspect recognises that outcomes for a child with ASD are improved if the entire family is supported through knowledge, acquisition of skills and mentoring. This is especially important at key transition times such as the time of diagnosis, moving into school and high school, and leaving school.

### Aspect's Autism Information Line (02 8977 8377)

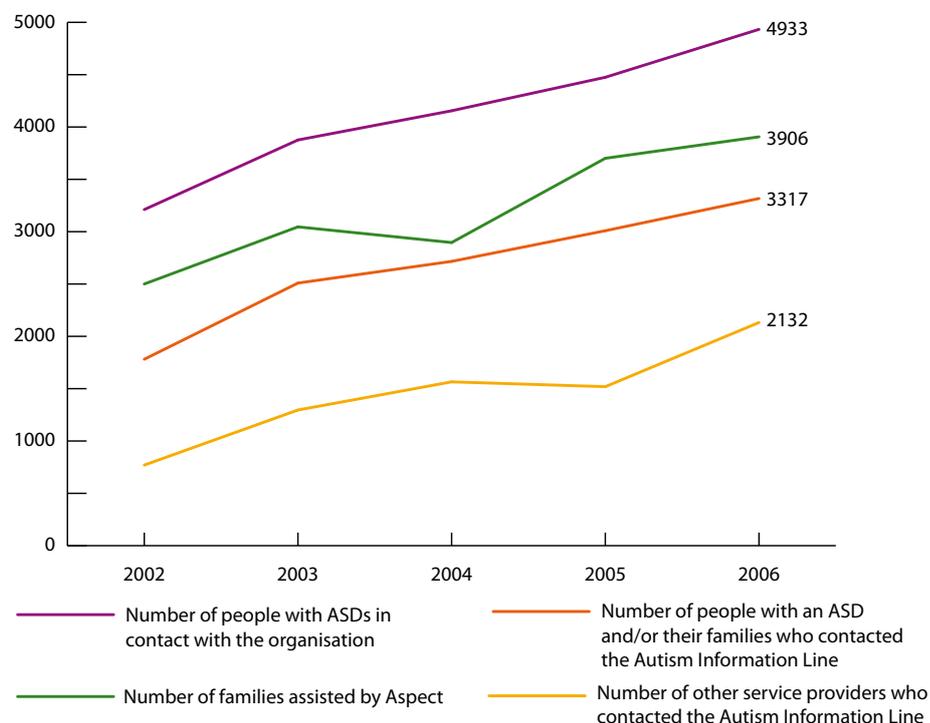
The 'Autism Information Line' is a valuable source for information for families, communities and professionals about ASD, particularly practical information about interventions and the services provided by Aspect. It has an extensive database of services and information, forwarding information according to caller requirements by hard copy or email.

In 2006 the 'Autism Information Line' was the point of contact for 3 317 people with ASD and their families and a further 2 132 service providers who called for assistance in their work with a person with ASD.

Aspect's Far North Coast Centre for Autism responded to a further 1 439 enquiries for information and support.

### 'Someone to turn to...' parent support network

This program provides emotional and practical support for parents who, for example, have a child with a recent diagnosis of autism, and would like supportive contact with a volunteer parent who has had similar experiences. There are no fees involved. Aspect provides initial and follow-up training for



## Our Services

volunteers as well as ongoing support for both parents and volunteers.

The program trained 59 volunteers who supported 150 families in Sydney and the newly established Far North Coast of NSW program. Parent/carer exit questionnaires indicate that parent/carers exit the program when their acute needs for support have been met; 100% of parents who exit the program said they would recommend the program to other parents.

During 2006, 'Someone to turn to...' volunteers worked with families in Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Tagalog and Japanese.

### 'Recipe for Success'

This program, which began in 2005 supported by NSW Health, provided education, training and support to 91 parents and carers in six locations. 'Recipe for Success' staff worked closely with local agencies to co-ordinate and deliver the program in each location.

### Behaviour Intervention Service (BIS)

BIS provided intensive positive behaviour support programs to 52 school-age children and their families, including those with a disability other than ASD. BIS is funded by DADHC.

### Building Links

'Building Links' is funded by NSW Health to provide education and support workshops to 119 parents and carers of children (aged 0-6 years) with ASD. The six workshops held in 2006 indicated that parents made statistically significant gains in their skills and knowledge across eight target areas including understanding autism, communication, play, behaviour, sensory, using visual support and accessing support.

An information evening for grandparents and extended family members was held for the first time in 2006; speakers included a grandparent and parent. More than 50 grandparents, uncles, aunts and family friends attended this workshop.

## Information Services

### Aspect web site [www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au)

The website is often the first point of reference for the general community and families. It offers information on autism and Aspect, links to other useful sites, an active forum, and payment gateways for publications, events and training. In 2006 it recorded 324 000 visits, and posted 680 pages of text and 151 links to other web sites.

### Publications

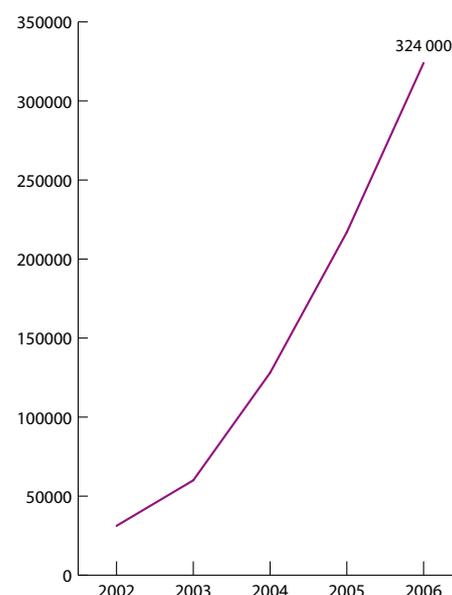
Aspect publishes a selection of early intervention and education manuals, information sheets on autism, brochures and newsletters.

### Conference presentations

The following major presentations were made by Aspect staff at external conferences and events during 2006:

- **ACROD NSW (NDS) State Conference** Adrian Ford, CEO: *Strategic Planning That Works*
- **Presentation to Disability Education Association NSW/ACT** Anthony Warren, Director, Outreach & Consultancy: *Emerging Trends and Issues in Disability and Asperger's/Autism Spectrum Disorders – Post Secondary Education*
- **Multicultural Caring Conference** Pauline Hunter-Knight, Coordinator, 'Someone to turn to...': *Working with carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds*
- **Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Asperger's Forum** Paul Kelly, Coordinator and Stephanie Francis, Speech Therapist, Central Coast: *Asperger's and Communication*
- **Association of Independent Schools—School Counsellor Conference** Jane Cotter, Manager, School Outreach Service: *Riding the Boundary: Inclusion and Advocacy*
- **Country Women's Association Conference** Amanda Pitchford, Coordinator, Central Coast: *Keynote speech—overview of*

Annual visits to Aspect's web site



*ASD, Aspect and the Central Coast School for Children with Autism*

- **Science, Experts and the Courts Conference** Anthony Warren, Director, Outreach & Consultancy: *Asperger's Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Courts*

### Research

To ensure Aspect's services and programs are continuously improving, the focus of the Research Division continues to be the facilitation of research that involves the evaluation of current service provision. As a result of this direction, two research projects evaluating outcomes for children and families as a result of Aspect's early intervention and satellite class programs are currently in progress. Aspect actively encourages a range of universities and medical institutions as research partners in these projects, including the Sydney, Macquarie, and Canberra Universities. The Children's Hospital at Westmead is also partnering with Aspect and Sydney University in an early intervention project.

Two current research projects involve evaluating Aspect's services:

(a) *Comparative analysis of early intervention programs for children with autism*

The aim of this project is to compare Aspect's 'Building Blocks' early

intervention programs, the centre-based 'Starting Blocks' and the home-based 'Early Play Program'. The programs are being compared in terms of outcomes for children and families and cost/benefit for Aspect. In addition the project will provide an assessment protocol that can be applied to other early intervention programs for young children with autism and their families.

The early intervention project commenced in January 2006 after approval was granted by the Ethics Committees of Sydney University, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), Macquarie University and The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Planning has also commenced with 'Building Blocks' staff to inform families about the research project and to promote the benefits of participating in the second phase of the project. The project is due to be completed in 2008.

*(b) Where are they now? A preliminary study to evaluate the long-term outcomes for students with autism graduating from the Aspect Satellite Class Program*

This project is designed to provide long-term follow-up data for students who have transitioned from Aspect's satellite classes. The purpose is to ascertain if placement accessed on transition is maintained in the long term, and to provide comprehensive, descriptive data concerning current functioning of representative cases. Findings will be used to evaluate transition procedures, develop information packages and reveal avenues for further research.

The second phase of the study will use a multiple-case study method to provide comprehensive, qualitative data for representative numbers of students who transitioned across the ten year period. It will explore educational history, current functioning and achievements, learning support, quality of life and also a key issue arising from the first part of the survey—the nature of post-transition support. The first part of the research will be completed in 2007.



*Wendy Anderson, a secretary at the Vern Barnett School for Children with Autism, with her daughter Jessica. Jess attended Aspect's early intervention and base school before transitioning into an Aspect satellite class in 2006.*

# Our People

## Board Directors

The Directors of Aspect in office as at 30 April 2007 are:

### Peter WERNER Board Chair

B.Comm. Peter is an executive search consultant and a Director of Richfield Consulting. He joined the Board in 2001. He has worked in the banking industry. He is the father of three children, one of whom has an autism spectrum disorder.

### Robert PESAVENTO Deputy Chair

Robert is the General Manager, Customer Engineering with SingTel Optus Pty Limited. Robert is the father of a son with an autism spectrum disorder. Robert joined the Board in 1999.

### Weston RYAN Treasurer

B.Bus, F.C.A. Weston is a partner in the accounting firm Einfeld Symonds Vince where he advises on Australian and International tax issues. Weston's interests include professional education. He teaches in Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. His interest in Aspect developed from friends with children who have an autism spectrum disorder. Weston joined the Board in 2003.

### David EPPER

A.N.Z.I.I.P. (Senior Assoc.) David is the Managing Director of Accident and Health International Underwriting Pty Limited. He joined the Board in 2001. He has a son with an autism spectrum disorder.

### Adelle EVANS

B.Bus, F.C.A. Adelle is the Risk Manager at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. She also manages the Thought Leadership Project at the Institute and previously worked as the organisation's Assistant Director of Education. Adelle has a sister with an autism spectrum disorder.

### David FOSTER

B.E., F.I.E. (Aust) David is a retired engineer with management experience with Pacific Power. As the parent of an adult son with an autism spectrum disorder, he is interested in progressive development of plans for growing numbers of adults who have autism spectrum disorders. David joined the Board in 1975.

### Geraldine GRAY

M.Ed., B.A. Gerry is the State Coordinator, Special Learning Needs for the NSW Catholic Education Commission. She joined the Board in 2004. Gerry has been supporting students with special educational needs since 1980, having begun her

teaching career in the mid-1970s. Gerry joined the Board in 2004.

### Jonathan HARRIS

LL.B., Accredited Specialist in Business Law. Jonathan is a solicitor and Managing Partner of Harris Hyde Page. As the parent of a son with an autism spectrum disorder, he is interested in assisting parents with their wills and other estate planning issues for family members with a disability.

### Malcolm McEWEN

B.Bus., M.Bus. Malcolm is an executive search and selection consultant with Carmichael Fisher. He joined the Board in 2004. Malcolm is married with two children, one of whom has an autism spectrum disorder. He is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Research Committee. Malcolm is a Member-elected Director.

### Keith PERKIN

B.Bus, C.P.A. Keith is the CEO of Retravision Pty Ltd and joined the Board in 2004. Keith has an extensive commercial background primarily in the fields of management and marketing, having held senior positions in Compaq, Dymocks and BP. His interest in Aspect arose out of a desire to use his commercial experience and contacts to the benefit of an organisation in the non-profit sector.

*Peter Werner, Robert Pesavento, Weston Ryan, David Epper*



### Dr David STARTE

M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P. (UK), F.R.A.C.P. David is the Service Director at the Chatswood Assessment Centre and a Clinical Associate Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, School of Medicine, University of Sydney. He joined the Board in 2004 and his interests include developmental paediatrics, including autism spectrum disorders and ADHD, and audiology including universal newborn screening and auditory processing.

### Board Committees

Aspect's Board has four Standing Committees which overview the organisation. Each Board Committee is chaired by a Board Director, with at least one other Board Director present. Committee membership is approved by the Board.

Board Directors and external individuals invited by the Board on to the Committee are members of the Committee and have the right to vote on the Committee, whereas members of staff are only in attendance, provide advice to the Committee and do not have the right to vote on any matter. Committee meetings follow the same meeting procedures set out for the Board in the Constitution.

### Finance & Audit Committee (as at 30 April 2007)

The terms of reference for the Finance & Audit Committee, which meets monthly, are to:

- approve monthly management accounts and budget variations;
- monitor and approve any changes to Aspect's investment portfolio;
- approve Aspect's policies;
- review the annual operating and capital budgets;
- assess the external audit program;
- assess the internal control systems and reporting procedures;
- track financial trends;
- oversee Aspect's assets; and
- assess financial risk.

Members: Weston Ryan (Chair), David Foster, Malcolm McEwen, Peter Werner

*In attendance: Adrian Ford, David Renneberg, Mark Schlosser*

### Client Services Committee (as at 30 April 2007)

The terms of reference for the Client Services Committee are to:

- focus on clients and their families in contact with Aspect at a systemic level; and
- regularly review the continuous improvement projects undertaken by Aspect's services.

Members: Robert Pesavento (Chair), Gerry Gray, Lisa Beavan (parent), Associate Professor David Evans (University of Sydney), Ana Robinson (parent)

*In attendance: Adrian Ford, Dr Trevor Clark, Dr Mark Clayton, Anthony Warren*

### Remuneration Committee (as at 30 April 2007)

The terms of reference for the Remuneration Committee, which meets at least once a year, are to:

- set the broad structure and objectives of the remuneration policy and its relationship with Aspect's task and performance;
- review the performance and approve the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer; and
- set the remuneration framework for Aspect's Senior Management Team in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, who in turn sets the remuneration for each member of the Senior Management Team within this framework.

Members: Peter Werner (Chair), Malcolm McEwen, Keith Perkin

*Adelle Evans, David Foster, Geraldine Gray*



## Our People

### Research Committee (as at 30 April 2007)

The terms of reference of the Research Committee, which meets twice a year, are to:

- develop, monitor and review the strategic direction for Aspect's research program;
- review the outcomes and the future directions of the research program in Aspect's Business Plan, including any research undertaken into Aspect's services;
- support the ongoing development of partnerships with the Australian research and academic communities and, where possible, with international research bodies; identify funding possibilities;
- share research information in the field of autism spectrum disorders; and
- monitor and overview Aspect's research projects.

Members: Dr David Starte (Chair), Malcolm McEwen, Dr Mark Carter (Macquarie University), Associate Professor David Evans (Sydney University), Dr Chris Kilham (University of Canberra), Professor Trevor Parmenter (Sydney University), Dr Jacqueline Roberts (Sydney University), Dr Natalie Silove (The Children's Hospital, Westmead), Dr Katrina Williams (Sydney Children's Hospital)

*In attendance: Adrian Ford, Dr Trevor Clark*

### External committees

The following Aspect staff members are involved in external committees as at 30 April 2007.

**Adrian Ford, CEO** Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (Chairperson); DADHC—Expert Advisory Group on Children and Young People with a Disability and their Families (Chairperson); National Disability Services (NDS)—Children, Young People and their Families NSW subcommittee (Chairperson); Steering Group of the Ethics of Caring in a Good Society, hosted by Carers NSW and the St James Ethics Centre

**Anthony Warren, Director, Outreach & Consultancy** NDS—Children, Young People and their Families National subcommittee

**Dr. Trevor Clark, Director, Education & Research** National Independent Special Schools Association (NISSA)

**Mark Clayton, Director, Employment & Community Participation** Centre for Developmental Disability Studies (Board Director); DADHC Metropolitan North Restrictive Practices Committee

**Elizabeth Gadek, Operations Manager,** Schools NISSA

**Janet Millhouse, Principal, Central Coast School** Early Childhood Intervention Coordination Program (ECICP)—Local; NISSA

**Liz Murray, Principal,** Hunter School NISSA

**Kay Jarrett, Principal, South Coast School** ECICP—Local

**Rowena Perritt, Principal, South East Sydney School** NISSA

**Pam Lea, Principal, Vern Barnett School** NISSA

**Giovanni Gulli, Principal,** Western Sydney School NISSA

**Katrina Kemp, Early Intervention,** Hunter School Hunter Early Intervention Providers; ECICP—Local

### Long Service Awards

The following employees reached long service milestones between 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007, and will be recognised at the Staff Conference in June.

#### 10 years

Catherine Boyd (South East Sydney School)

Mark Durie (Hunter School)

Lynette Miller (South East Sydney School)

Catherine Thomson (Western Sydney School)

#### 15 years

Robyn Corbell (Wahroonga Accommodation)

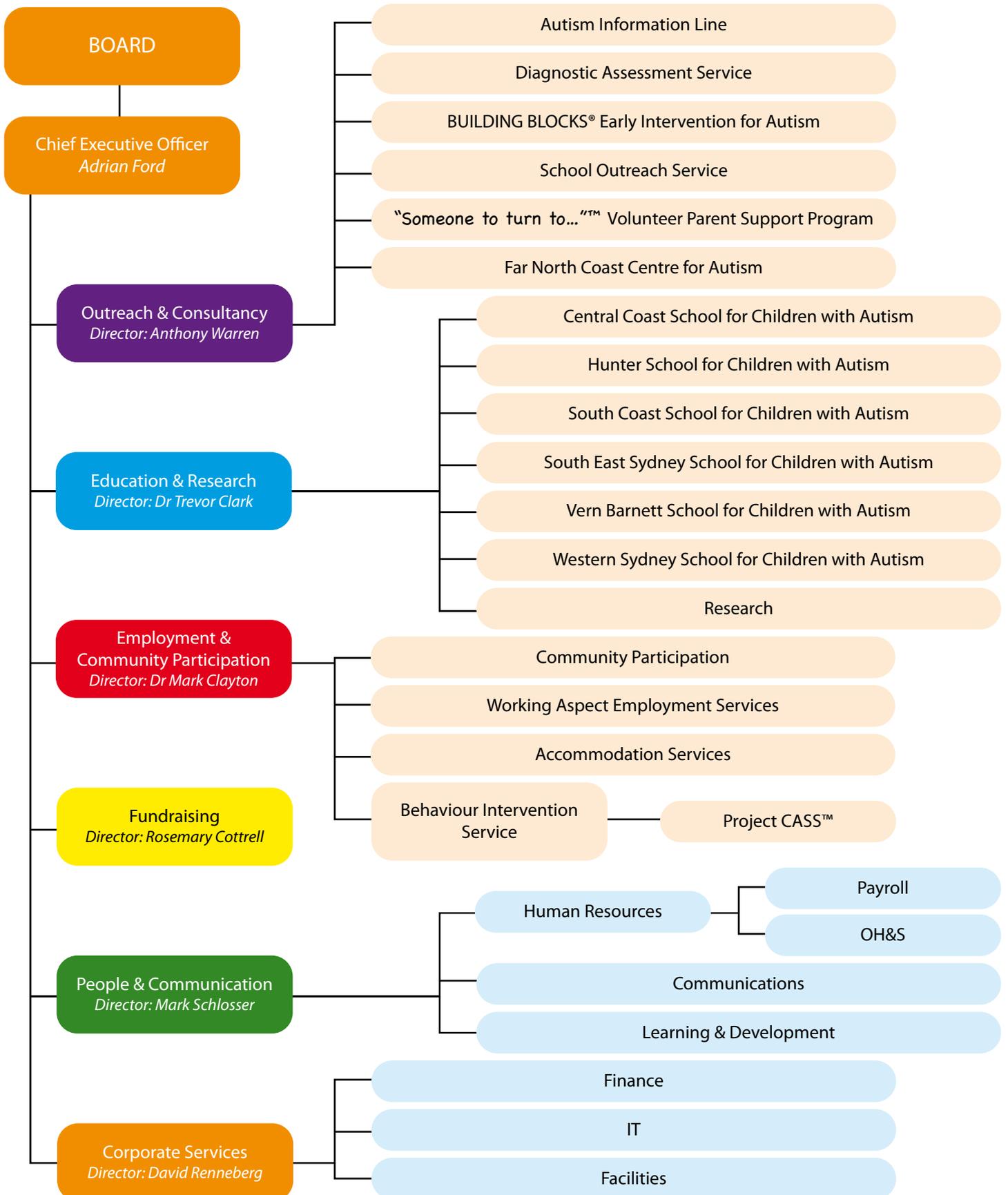
#### 20 years

Fay Gray (South East Sydney School)

*Jonathan Harris, Malcolm McEwen, Keith Perkin, Dr David Starte*

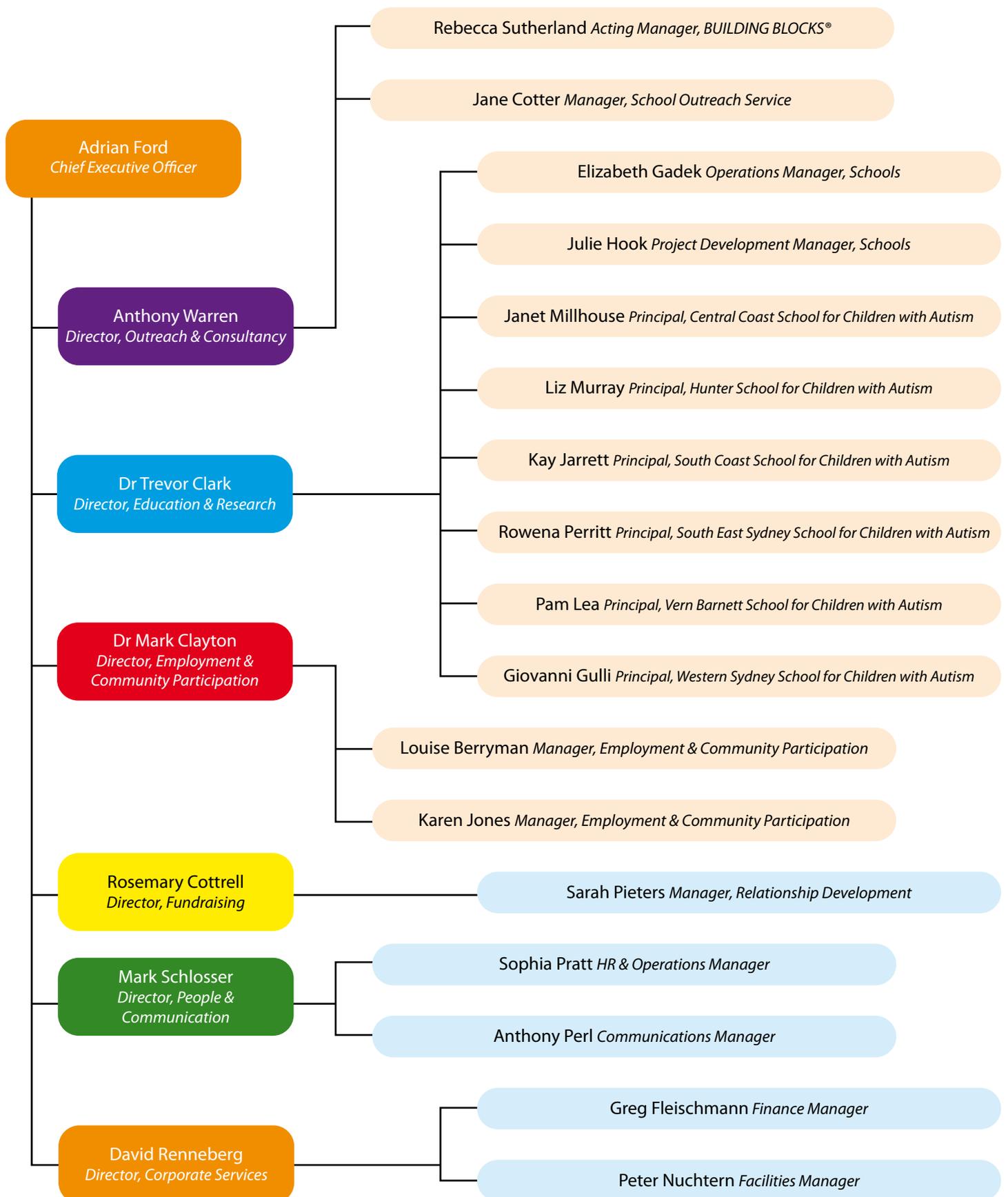


# Organisational Structure



Aspect thanks Angela Aston James, our former Head, Corporate Communications, for her valuable contribution to this Annual Report.

# Management Structure



# Corporate Governance Statement

## INTRODUCTION

The Board of the Autism Spectrum Australia (or Aspect for short) applies a sound governance framework to the conduct of the Board. This framework is applied throughout Aspect, reflecting the belief that any shortcomings in governance could jeopardise Aspect's reputation and its ability to fulfil its obligations to people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families, carers or guardians.

Aspect is accountable to a wide range of stakeholders with whom it interacts. These are people with ASD and their families, carers or guardians, the staff (including employees and volunteers), governments, donors, service partners and the Board itself.

This statement sets out the principles, policies and procedures the Board adopts to ensure the long-term health and prosperity of Aspect. It provides an overall governance framework and identifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board and management in setting the strategy and direction of Aspect and in managing and controlling the organisation.

## Vision, Mission & Values

Aspect is committed to conducting its work with the highest standards of personal and corporate integrity.

Aspect's vision (or aspiration) is **overcoming the isolation of autism**.

Aspect's mission (or what it does) is that **Aspect provides information, education and other services through partnerships with people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and communities**.

Aspect's values are:

*Aim high*

*Understand & communicate clearly*

*Take personal responsibility*

*Inspire & innovate*

*Show empathy*

*Make a difference*

## THE BOARD

### Role of the Board

The Board of Directors exercises the powers vested in it by the Corporations Act 2001, and Aspect's Constitution and Regulations.

The Board is directly responsible to Aspect's members for the long-term health and prosperity of Aspect. The policies and practices outlined in Aspect's Corporate Governance Statement provide the framework which enables the Board's principal role to be achieved whilst ensuring that Aspect's activities are conducted ethically and in accordance with the law.

The Board charts the direction of Aspect and monitors management's performance on behalf of Aspect's members and other stakeholders mentioned in the introduction. It accomplishes this by:

- ensuring a skilled, effective and diverse Board with appropriate operating standards and procedures
- appointing, supporting, delegating to, evaluating and remunerating the Chief Executive Officer and providing for a management succession plan;
- setting the vision, and agreeing the strategic direction and business objectives of Aspect with management;

- ensuring resources are available to achieve its goals by developing with management and approving Aspect's three-year Strategic Plan, from which is developed its annual Action Plan and budget, and by regular monitoring of performance using the Corporate Score Card against these plans and the operating and capital budgets;
- advising, approving and monitoring management's activities and performance to ensure the Strategic Plan is being met;
- ensuring a risk management framework is in place to identify and manage those risks that threaten the reputation, earnings, assets and the basic capacity of Aspect;
- approving appropriate policies, guidelines and procedures and ensuring there is a compliance process in place to monitor adherence;
- ensuring the integrity of internal controls for financial and management information systems;
- maintaining adequate personal liability insurance for current and past Directors, and
- ensuring Aspect's activities are conducted ethically and transparently.

The authorities retained by the Board are:

- the appointment, evaluation and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer
- material transactions not in the ordinary course of business;
- the approval of the three-year Strategic Plan, the annual Action Plan and the operating and capital budgets;
- the approval of changes to the vision, mission and values;

# Corporate Governance Statement

- Aspect's regulations;
- approval of the statutory accounts including the Directors' report;
- insurance policy renewals for Directors and Officers insurance; and
- ensuring appropriate performance of, and undertaking ongoing due diligence with, the external auditors.

Aspect's activities are regulated by the Corporations Act 2001 and other State and Commonwealth laws as applicable, including the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991.

## Role of Management

The Board delegates responsibility for day-to-day management of Aspect's activities to the Chief Executive Officer. Primarily the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementing the Strategic Plan approved by the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Board. Contractual, remuneration and other matters related to the Chief Executive Officer's appointment are reviewed by the Remuneration Committee. The Board Chair is the Board's principal formal contact with the Chief Executive Officer, however the Chief Executive Officer has unrestricted access to all Board Members and vice versa. The Chief Executive Officer leads the Senior Management Team.

The Senior Management Team comprises:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director, Outreach & Consultancy
- Director, Education & Research
- Director, Employment & Community Participation
- Director, Fundraising
- Director, People & Communication
- Director, Corporate Services

## Role of the Board Chair

The Board elects annually the Board Chair and the other office bearers of Aspect as set out in the Constitution.

The key internal roles of the Board Chair are to:

- lead and facilitate the Board;
- ensure the Board is focused on achieving the vision, mission and strategic goals of Aspect;
- ensure that no one has excessive influence;
- maintain a professional working relationship and be the Board's formal point of contact with the Chief Executive Officer;
- set the agenda for each Board meeting, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer;
- ensure the Board carries out appropriate assessments of Board performance, and
- ensure meetings are conducted effectively and that the minutes are signed as a true and correct record.

The main external roles of the Board Chair are to:

- represent the Board and Aspect, as appropriate, to its various stakeholders;
- act as a spokesperson, where appropriate, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer; and
- chair its legally required annual and other general meetings.

## Role of Individual Directors

The role of individual Directors under general law and Corporations Law include to:

- act in good faith;
- exercise powers for proper purpose;
- retain their discretion in voting at meetings;
- avoid conflicts of interest;
- act honestly;
- act with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable person in a like position in a corporation would exercise in the corporation's circumstances;

- not misuse information or their position, and
- not trade while insolvent.

Other roles include to:

- make reasonable inquiries to ensure that Aspect is operating efficiently, effectively and legally towards achieving its goals, and
- undertake diligent analysis of all proposals placed before the Board.

## Confidentiality

A Director shall keep confidential all confidential information; and not disclose it to any person, except as required by law; with the prior written consent of Aspect; or to Aspect's agents, employees or advisers in the performance of the Director's responsibilities and duties.

No Director shall use any confidential information for the benefit of any person except Aspect.

If any confidential information is lawfully within the public domain then to the extent that the confidential information is public, a Director's obligations shall cease in respect of that confidential information.

If there is uncertainty as to whether any information is confidential information; or any confidential information is lawfully within the public domain, then that information is deemed to be confidential information and is not within the public domain, unless the Director is advised by the Board in writing to the contrary.

A Director shall maintain proper and secure custody of all confidential information; and use his or her best endeavours to prevent the use or disclosure of the confidential information by third parties.

A Director shall immediately deliver to Aspect all confidential information that is physically capable of delivery at the end of that person's term as a Director; and at any time at the request of a person authorised by the Board. Instead of delivering

confidential information, the Board may direct the Director to destroy confidential information and certify in writing to Aspect that the confidential information has been destroyed. The Board may direct that confidential information contained in computer software or data be destroyed by erasing it from the magnetic media on which it is stored so that the information cannot be recovered or reconstructed.

A Director must not make any copy or summary of any confidential information, except if required to do so in the course of his or her duties as a Director. If a Director is required to make a copy or summary of confidential information in the course of the Director's duties and functions as a Director, the copy or summary belongs to Aspect.

A Director shall comply with these obligations regarding confidentiality at all times during and after that person's term as a Director.

## Conflicts of Interests

The common law fiduciary duty of Directors is to act honestly and in the best interests of Aspect. This also overlaps with the Corporations Law that includes requirements that Directors not misuse position or information to gain an unfair advantage, act honestly and disclose conflicts of interest.

Potential conflicts of interest may include:

- a contract with Aspect;
- using confidential information for personal gain, and
- profiting from an opportunity that rightfully belongs to Aspect.

To manage conflicts of interests for Directors, the following guidelines are to be adhered to:

- Declare existing or potential conflicts to the Company Secretary.
- When a conflict of interest arises immediately advise the Board Chair in the boardroom.

- Directors who have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter for discussion may, with the consent of the Chair, be present while the vote is taken.
- No financial or other benefit can be given to a related party of the Director unless approved by the Board.
- The Company Secretary shall ensure that a register of Interests is maintained.

Further to ensure their independence and absence of conflicts of interest, Directors may not be current employees of Aspect, or employed by Aspect within the last two years.

## Board Composition and Size

Under Aspect's Constitution there can be up to ten Member-elected Directors for a term of three years. Also the Board can appoint up to two Board-appointed Directors.

At least one third of Member-elected Directors must retire from office at the Annual General Meeting each year; such retiring Directors are eligible for re-election;

The term of Board-appointed Directors is for twelve months but the Board may re-appoint a Board-appointed Director for further twelve month terms.

Directors appointed to fill casual vacancies must submit to election at the next general meeting.

The attributes that Directors should bring to the Board include sound business judgement and a performance focus, empathy for people with ASD and their families, broad strategic thinking, a collegiate and team playing approach, a philosophical commitment to the objectives of Aspect, a willingness and capability to devote the required time to the Board's affairs, and undoubted reputation and integrity.

## Nominations and Appointment

## of New Directors

No person except a Member-elected Director whose tenure has expired or a person recommended by the Board for election, is eligible for election to the office of Member-elected Director at any meeting unless:

- the prospective eligible candidate for the position of Member-elected Director, or
- any member intending to nominate a prospective eligible candidate for the position of Member-elected Director,

has at least 28 clear days before the General Meeting sent to the Secretary a notice in writing duly signed by two other members signifying the nominee's candidature for the office or the intention of such eligible candidate to nominate for the office of Member-elected Director. Notice of each and every candidature must be forwarded to all Members not less than 21 days prior to the meeting at which an election is to take place.

The Company Secretary advises members annually on the process they need to follow if they wish to nominate for the position of Member-elected Director.

Members wishing to nominate for the Board are encouraged to contact the Board Chair first so that a meeting can be arranged between the nominee, the Board Chair and at least one other Director to discuss the role and consider its rights and responsibilities. Not only is the Board looking for new Directors from time to time it is also wanting to ensure that new Directors will be prepared to become part of an effective team governing the organisation.

The Board aims to achieve a mix of qualifications, skills and experience, by taking into account the existing diversity of experience in the current Board and the strategic direction and progress of Aspect.

New Directors are required to undertake an induction of the

# Corporate Governance Statement

Board and Aspect, its issues, current concerns, staff and financial position. This induction process may include meetings with Aspect's Senior Management, and may include Australian Institute of Company Directors training on board responsibilities and obligations, or other such training considered appropriate.

The current composition of the Board and Board Committees, together with background details on each Director, is set out in Aspect's annual report and on Aspect's web site.

## Directors' Indemnity and Insurance Cover

Aspect's Constitution provides an indemnity to present and past Directors. As with other insurable risks, Aspect has insured Directors and officers against liabilities incurred by such a person in connection with the performance by that person of his or her position with Aspect except for a liability arising out of conduct involving wilful breach of duty or contravention of the Corporations Law.

## Meetings of the Board and their Conduct

The Board meets eight times each year. The Board decides on an annual schedule of major items that are considered over the eight meetings along with regular items to monitor the organisation.

Meeting agendas are determined by the Board Chair in consultation with the CEO to ensure adequate coverage of strategic, financial and operating matters throughout the year. Details of meetings and attendances are set out in Aspect's annual report.

## Meeting Procedures

To ensure Board meetings are constructive, the Board has adopted the following procedures:

- Proper and timely notice of meetings is provided to all

Directors with an outline of the proposed business

- Board papers, that include clear resolutions on all papers for decision, are provided at least five days in advance
- The majority of the Board's time is spent on strategic issues rather than the day-to-day responsibilities of management
- An action schedule is maintained to ensure that all outstanding items or progress on implementation of approvals are dealt with
- A quorum is maintained throughout the meeting
- Complete focus is maintained on the issue during debate
- Debate occurs because it is essential to ensure the right decisions
- Open questions are posed to encourage debate
- Board meetings are chaired and facilitated by the Board Chair
- Within 5 working days, the minutes are produced and circulated to Directors
- Minutes are recorded in such a way that resolutions can be actioned and monitored; and
- The Board Chair and CEO should not circumvent the process of the Board meeting
- The minutes of each Board meeting are approved by the Board as true and correct record of the meeting at the next Board meeting.

## Board Decision Making

The Board when making a decision may need to take into account a number of factors including:

- their duties and responsibilities as Directors;
- strategic fit;
- ethical fit;
- financial considerations;
- strategic and operational risks;

- resource availability (internal/external and alternative use of resources);
- political impacts;
- key drivers and sensitivities;
- the inclusion of third party information on key assumptions;
- synergy effect for the business as a whole;
- community and stakeholders' perception of the decision;
- contingency plans in place to deal with unexpected developments; and
- monitoring and accountability mechanisms (if approved) incorporating key milestones and anticipated benefits.

The objective of the evaluation process is to ensure an appropriate balance of risk and return is achieved in the context of the operation of Aspect and what it stands for.

Although formal meeting practices can assist the efficient conduct of a meeting, such practices on the Aspect Board are not used to stifle discussion or push for a particular outcome which is obviously not accepted generally. In general voting or calling for motions is not a practice encouraged in the Aspect Board as such practices can risk factionalising the Board.

In the circumstance where there is not a consensus commitment to an outcome or where there is the situation where voting is required and/or directors want to record an abstention, the Board Chair clarifies what information is required to help the undecided directors and allow time for further discussion and consultation in order to reach a consensus decision. Once a consensus decision is reached Directors are expected to honour the decision both in and outside the Board.

## Representation of Aspect

The Board expects the Chief Executive Officer to speak for Aspect and to manage communications with members, other stakeholders and the community generally. Directors

other than the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer do not comment publicly on Aspect issues, unless specifically delegated.

The Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer would normally confer with each other before making a significant public comment. Copies of all significant press releases are forwarded to Directors on the day of release.

Directors are expected to keep the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer informed of any significant feedback about Aspect they receive from their networks.

## Media

Aspect's media policy aims to maximise opportunities for coverage of activities and achievements and to minimise adverse publicity and any misleading information.

On significant media issues for Aspect, the Chief Executive Officer is the primary spokesperson. The Chief Executive Officer may from time to time authorise other senior managers and subject specialists to act as spokespersons on particular issues.

The Board Chair or Board delegate in consultation with the CEO will issue statements to the media when appropriate.

## The Review of Board Performance

The Board undertakes a review of its performance from time to time to ensure that the expectations of all Directors are aligned, to confirm areas of successful performance and to identify those areas requiring further improvement as part of Aspect's commitment to continuous improvement throughout the organisation.

The review of Board performance includes:

- Directors' understanding of Aspect's goals and policies, the governance statement and conflicts of interest.

- performance in relation to ethics, integrity and probity;
- compliance with legislation;
- Board communication and communication between the Board and Senior Management, and
- Board composition, committee structure, workload and procedures to ensure effective decision making.

A range of methods are available to the Board for such performance review. They can include:

- asking Directors to anonymously write comments on agreed parameters and send to a third party for correlation and presentation to the Board Chair and then to the whole Board for discussion;
- asking Directors to personally review their performance against agreed parameters and then having a Board discussion or an individual meeting with the Board Chair;
- the Board Chair having an individual discussion with each Director on agreed areas, and
- retaining an external facilitator to undertake a review process.

## BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has established a number of Standing Committees to assist in the execution of the Board's responsibilities. These Committees are a recognition that some areas of Aspect's activities require more concentrated effort and specialist skills and are an efficient use of Board resources. They do not abrogate any Director from his/her responsibilities and Committees are obliged to properly inform the full Board of their activities.

Each Board Committee is chaired by a Board Director. There is at least one other Board Director on each Committee. Committee membership must be approved by the Board. Board Directors and external individuals invited by the Board on to the Committee are members of the Committee and have the right to vote

on the Committee, while members of staff are only in attendance, provide advice to the Committee and do not have the right to vote on any matter. Committee meetings follow the same meeting procedures set out for the Board in the Constitution, for example a quorum is 50% of membership.

At present the Board has four Standing Committees. They are Finance & Audit, Client Services, Research and Remuneration. From time to time the Board may also establish ad hoc committees to assist with specific issues or projects. Individual Committee charters are regularly reviewed by the Board. The terms of reference for each Standing Committee are set out in Aspect's Regulations which are available on Aspect's website. Standing Committee meetings and attendances by Directors are set out in Aspect's annual report.

## REMUNERATION

No Directors receive remuneration from Aspect. Out of pocket expenses relating to their director activities may be reimbursed by Aspect. The Chief Executive Officer's remuneration is governed by a contract of employment.

*Aspect's Corporate Governance Statement was approved by the Board on 30 August 2006.*

*Updated 30 April 2007 to include any administrative or Board-approved changes.*

# Concise Financial Report

## for the year ended 31 December 2006

### Directors' Report

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2006 and the auditors' report thereon.

### Directors

The Directors of Aspect in office at any time during, or since, the year ended 31 December 2006 are:

Peter WERNER, [Board Chair] B.Comm. is an executive search consultant and a Director of Richfield Consulting. He joined the Board in 2001. He has worked in the banking industry. He is the father of three children, one of whom has an autism spectrum disorder. He is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee, chairs the Remuneration Committee and in 2006 was a member of the Strategy Group and the Fundraising Committee. Peter is a Member-elected Director.

Robert PESAVENTO [Deputy Chair] is the General Manager, Customer Engineering with SingTel Optus Pty Limited. Robert is the father of a son with an autism spectrum disorder. Robert joined the Board in 1999. He chairs the Client Services Committee and in 2006 was a member of the Strategy Group. Robert is a Member-elected Director.

Weston RYAN, [Treasurer] B.Bus, F.C.A. is a partner in the accounting firm Einfeld Symonds Vince where he advises on Australian and International tax issues. Weston's interests include professional education. He teaches in Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. His interest in Aspect developed from friends with children who have an autism spectrum disorder. Weston joined the Board in 2003, became the Honorary Treasurer and chairs the Finance & Audit Committee. In 2006 he was a member of the Strategy Group. Weston is a Member-elected Director.

David EPPER, A.N.Z.I.I.P. (Senior Assoc.) is the Managing Director of Accident and Health International Underwriting Pty Limited. He joined the Board in 2001. He has a son with an autism spectrum disorder and chaired the Fundraising Committee. David is a Member-elected Director.

Adelle EVANS B.Bus, F.C.A. is the Risk Manager at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. She also manages the Thought Leadership Project at the Institute and previously worked as the organisation's Assistant Director, Education. Adelle has a sister with an autism spectrum disorder. She joined the Board in September 2006 as a Board-appointed Director.

David FOSTER B.E., F.I.E. (Aust), is a retired engineer with management experience with Pacific Power. As the parent of an adult son with an autism spectrum disorder, he is interested in progressive development of plans for growing numbers of adults who have autism spectrum disorders. David joined the Board in 1975 and is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. He also represents the Board on the Corporate Risk Management Committee. David is a Life Governor of Aspect and is a Member-elected Director.

Geraldine GRAY, M.Ed., B.A. is the State Coordinator, Special Learning Needs for the NSW Catholic Education Commission. She joined the Board in 2004. Gerry has been supporting students with special educational needs since 1980, having begun her teaching career in the mid 70's. Gerry joined the Board in 2004 and is a member of the Client Services Committee. Gerry is a Member-elected Director.

Jonathan HARRIS, LLB; Accredited Specialist in Business Law is a solicitor and Managing Partner of Harris Hyde Page. As the parent of a son with an autism spectrum disorder, he is interested in assisting parents with

their wills and other estate planning issues for family members with a disability. Jonathan was a member of the Fundraising Committee. Jonathan joined the Board in 1996 and is a Member-elected Director.

Richard JENNINGS is the Executive Officer of the International Pilots Association. He joined the Board in 1992 and is the parent of an adult son with an autism spectrum disorder who attends the Southside Community Participation Service. Richard was a member of the Client Services Committee. Richard resigned from the Board in June 2006.

Malcolm McEWEN, B.Bus., M.Bus., is an executive search and selection consultant with Carmichael Fisher. He joined the Board in 2004. Malcolm is married with two children, one of whom has an autism spectrum disorder. He is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Research Committee. Malcolm is a Member-elected Director.

Keith PERKIN, B.Bus, C.P.A, CEO of Retravision Pty Ltd joined the Board in 2004. Keith has an extensive commercial background primarily in the fields of management and marketing, having held senior positions in Compaq, Dymocks and BP. His interest in Aspect arose out of a desire to use his commercial experience and contacts to the benefit of an organisation in the non profit sector. He is a member of the Remuneration Committee and in 2006 was a member of the Strategy Group. Keith is a Member-elected Director.

Gary STANTON is the General Manager, Customer Relations for INSiTE Asset Specialists. He joined the Board in 2002. He is interested in promoting greater understanding of autism in the broader community. He has a granddaughter with an autism spectrum disorder. Gary was a member

of the Fundraising Committee. Gary resigned from the Board in March 2006.

Dr David STARTE, M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P. (UK), F.R.A.C.P. is the Service Director at the Chatswood Assessment Centre

and a Clinical Associate Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, School of Medicine, University of Sydney. He joined the Board in 2004 and his interests include developmental paediatrics,

including autism spectrum disorders and ADHD, and audiology including universal newborn screening and auditory processing. David chairs the Research Committee and is a Member-elected Director.

## Directors' Meetings

	Directors' Meetings		Finance & Audit Committee		Client Services Committee		Fundraising Committee		Strategy Group		Research Committee		Remuneration Committee	
	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held	Meetings attended	Meetings held
Mr P Werner	9	9	10	11	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	1	1
Mr R Pesavento	7	9	-	-	3	3	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Mr W Ryan	7	9	11	11	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Mr D Epper	5	9	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ms A Evans	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr D Foster	8	9	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ms G Gray	7	9	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr J Harris	4	9	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr R Jennings	1	4	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr M McEwen	7	9	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1
Mr K Perkin	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1
Mr G Stanton	0	1	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dr D Starte	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-

The number of directors' and committee meetings held during the time the director held office during the year.

# Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee) Directors' Report

## Principal activities

The principal activities of Aspect are to provide a range of services to children, young people and adults with autism spectrum disorders. These include diagnostic and assessment services, early intervention and educational services for children, and employment programs, community participation programs and accommodation services for adults. Support, assistance and information are provided to families of people with autism spectrum disorders. The provision of training and consultation to other professionals and parents in ways of working with people with autism spectrum disorders also continues as does Aspect's research program. There were no significant changes in the nature of those activities during the year.

## Financial result

The operating result for 2006 was a surplus of \$468,404 (2005: surplus \$1,088,460).

## Dividends

Aspect has no share capital, as it is a company limited by guarantee. This means it is precluded from paying a dividend to its members.

## Review of operations

The community's awareness of people with autism spectrum disorders continues to rise. In response Aspect continues to extend its services to try and meet this ever growing need.

Government grants continued to provide the major operational income for Aspect supported by fundraising and a contribution by client's families for some of the services through a fee for service charge. Income from these three sources increased in 2006 to \$21,401,022 compared with \$19,640,702 in 2005.

## State of affairs

In the opinion of the Directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of Aspect that occurred during the financial year under review not otherwise disclosed in the report or the financial statements.

## Environmental regulation

Aspect is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under either Commonwealth or State legislation. However, the Board believes that Aspect has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to Aspect.

### Events subsequent to balance date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Directors of Aspect, to affect significantly the operations of Aspect, the results of the operations, or the state of affairs of Aspect, in subsequent financial years.

### Likely developments

No significant change to the nature of the principal activities of Aspect is expected.

### Indemnification and insurance of officers

During the year Aspect took out an insurance policy to indemnify the Directors and Officers against all liabilities that may arise from their position as Directors and Officers of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

The insurance premiums relate to the costs and expenses incurred by the relevant officers in defending proceedings, whether civil or criminal and whatever their outcome and other liabilities that may arise from their position, with the exception of conduct involving a wilful breach of duty or improper use of information or position to gain a personal advantage.

Since the end of the previous year, Aspect has paid insurance premiums of \$20,150 (2005: \$20,934) in respect of all Directors' and Officers' Liability and Legal Expenses insurance contracts. The insurance contracts do not identify premiums paid in respect of the individual Directors.

### Court proceedings

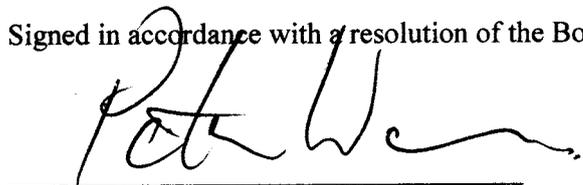
No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or intervened in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporation Act 2001 is set out on page 34.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



P. Werner - Board Chair

Dated this 19<sup>TH</sup> day of APRIL, 2007 at Sydney.

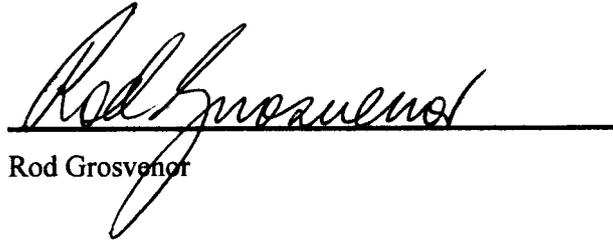
Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Auditors' Independence Declaration under Section 307c of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2006 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**GROSVENOR SCHILIRO**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**



Rod Grosvenor

Dated this *19<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 2007 at Sydney

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Note	2006 \$	2005 \$
Revenue from employment enclaves		115,989	76,002
Revenue from rendering of services		2,194,833	1,969,099
Federal/State grants and salary subsidies		18,932,938	16,607,902
Other revenue		<u>2,088,574</u>	<u>2,176,017</u>
<b>Total revenue</b>	3	<u>23,332,334</u>	<u>20,829,020</u>
Employee expenses		(18,993,844)	(16,146,809)
Transportation costs		(882,585)	(785,741)
Insurance expense		(457,055)	(486,922)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(289,894)	(291,528)
Borrowing costs		(22,605)	(26,660)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		<u>(2,217,947)</u>	<u>(2,002,900)</u>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities</b>		<u>468,404</u>	<u>1,088,460</u>
<b>Net result of operations</b>		<u>468,404</u>	<u>1,088,460</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	601,439	1,309,418
Trade and other receivables	287,235	210,815
Other financial assets	1,501,538	1,014,552
Other assets	<u>325,524</u>	<u>85,322</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b><u>2,715,736</u></b>	<b><u>2,620,107</u></b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	3,226,620	3,165,104
Other financial assets	<u>4,310,216</u>	<u>3,657,188</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b><u>7,536,836</u></b>	<b><u>6,822,292</u></b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>10,252,572</u></b>	<b><u>9,442,399</u></b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,231,506	1,277,952
Borrowings	31,737	29,287
Provisions	<u>1,442,958</u>	<u>1,180,540</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,706,201</u></b>	<b><u>2,487,779</u></b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	232,112	263,824
Provisions	<u>1,076,231</u>	<u>963,510</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b><u>1,308,343</u></b>	<b><u>1,227,334</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>4,014,545</u></b>	<b><u>3,715,113</u></b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>6,238,027</u></b>	<b><u>5,727,286</u></b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Other reserves	717,744	675,407
Accumulated surplus	5,520,283	5,051,879
<b>Total equity</b>	<b><u>6,238,027</u></b>	<b><u>5,727,286</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from customers and grants	22,358,989	20,384,954
Payments to suppliers and employees	(22,350,225)	(18,814,503)
Interest received	490,748	393,473
Interest paid	<u>(22,606)</u>	<u>(26,660)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b><u>476,906</u></b>	<b><u>1,937,264</u></b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for investments	(304,451)	(850,022)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(364,186)</u>	<u>(231,571)</u>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b><u>(668,637)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,081,593)</u></b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of borrowings	<u>(29,262)</u>	<u>(27,000)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b><u>(29,262)</u></b>	<b><u>(27,000)</u></b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held</b>	<b>(220,993)</b>	<b>828,671</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year</b>	<b>2,323,970</b>	<b>1,495,299</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	<b><u>2,102,977</u></b>	<b><u>2,323,970</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Statement in Changes of Equity for the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>		
Accumulated surplus / (deficit) at the beginning of the financial year	<u>5,051,879</u>	<u>3,963,419</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities	<u>468,404</u>	<u>1,088,460</u>
Accumulated surplus / (deficit) at the end of the financial year	<u>5,520,283</u>	<u>5,051,879</u>
<b>Other reserves</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	<u>675,407</u>	<u>534,634</u>
Available-for-sale investments:		
Unrealised gains / (losses) from investments	348,579	140,773
Realised (gains) / losses from investments to Income Statement	(306,242)	-
Net investment gains / (losses) taken to equity	<u>42,337</u>	<u>140,773</u>
Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>717,744</u>	<u>675,407</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Discussion and Analysis for the year ended 31 December 2006

Discussion and Analysis of  
the Income Statement

Aspect's income for 2006 increased by 12% to \$23,332,334 (2005: \$20,829,020). This movement was mainly due to a 14% increase in government grants and subsidies during 2006 of \$2,325,036. This was the result of the continued growth of Aspect's schools program for children and young people with autism spectrum disorders. Fundraising, including bequests, generated a net result of \$665,547 (2005: \$1,168,985). Bequests to the Company totalled \$162,234 (2005: \$533,869).

Total expenses increased 16% during the year mainly as a result of a general increase in salaries (increase of \$2,586,691 to \$16,935,008) and superannuation expenses (increase of \$139,351 to \$1,424,399) as well as higher conference and seminar costs (increase of \$85,633 to \$160,763) and motor vehicle costs (increase of \$68,865 to \$742,536).

The net effects of the increases in income and expenditure combined to produce an operating surplus of \$468,404 compared with a surplus of \$1,088,460 in 2005.

Discussion and Analysis  
of the Balance Sheet

The Company's net assets increased by 9% to \$6,238,027 during the year.

The Company's total assets increased by 9% by \$810,173 to \$10,252,572 (2005: \$9,442,399). The delayed expenditure on the capital works projects and higher than expected investment returns also reflect an increase excess cash in current financial assets (term deposits increase of \$486,986) and non-current financial assets (investment portfolio increase of \$653,028).

Total liabilities of the Company increased by \$299,432 to \$4,014,545 (2005: \$3,715,113). This is mainly due to the increase in the annual leave provision of \$241,431 to \$1,221,425 and the long service leave provision of \$133,708 to \$1,297,764 due to the reduction in staff turnover and the general increase in wage levels.

Discussion and Analysis of  
the Cash Flow Statement

The decrease in cash of \$220,993 to \$2,102,977 was mainly due the net cash provided from operating activities of \$476,906 less the investment activity spending of \$668,637 for the purchase of investments (\$304,451) and property & equipment (\$364,186). The increased government funding was the major contributing factor to the improved liquidity position.

The net result from financing activities was not significant.

Discussion and Analysis of  
Statement of Changes in Equity

Equity has increased due to the surplus from operations being retained.

Other reserves have increased by \$42,337 during the year as a result of increase in market value of investments.

Note 1 Basis of preparation of Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standard AASB 1039 "Concise Financial Reports" and the Corporation's Act 2001.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars

The financial statements and specific disclosures required by AASB 1039 have been derived from the Company's full financial report for the financial year. Other information included in the concise financial report is consistent with the Company's full financial report. The concise financial report does not, and cannot be expected to, provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and

investing activities of the Company as the full financial report.

It has been prepared on the basis of historical costs and except where stated, does not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets.

These accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Company and, except where there is a change in accounting policy, are consistent with those of the previous year.

A full description of the accounting policies adopted by the entity is provided in the 2006 financial statements which form part of the full financial report.

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with the current financial year amounts and other disclosures.

(a) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Income Statement.

Note 2 Full Financial Report

Further financial information can be obtained from the full financial report which is available, free of charge, on request from the Company's premises at 41 Cook St., Forestville or calling (02) 8977 8300 or email [drenneberg@aspect.org.au](mailto:drenneberg@aspect.org.au).

Note 3 Revenue from ordinary activities

	2006 \$	2005 \$
Federal/State grants and subsidies	18,932,938	16,607,902
Donations and bequests	546,953	895,540
Fundraising projects	519,073	796,700
Interest	490,748	393,474
School and residence fees	1,402,058	1,340,560
Members' subscriptions	27,139	21,263
Employment enclaves	115,989	76,002
Other revenue	<u>1,310,212</u>	<u>709,567</u>
Total revenue from ordinary activities	<u>23,345,110</u>	<u>20,841,008</u>
Revenue from outside ordinary activities (Loss) / Profit on the sale of Plant & Equipment	<u>(12,776)</u>	<u>(11,988)</u>
<b>Revenue from all activities</b>	<u><b>23,332,334</b></u>	<u><b>20,829,020</b></u>

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Notes to and forming part of the concise financial report for the year ended 31 December 2006

Note 4 Dividends

No dividends were paid or proposed in the current or prior financial years.

Note 5 Remuneration of Directors

The directors of the Company receive no remuneration.

Note 6 Results of fundraising appeals

	2006 \$	2005 \$
Gross proceeds from fundraising appeals	1,066,026	1,692,240
Less: Total costs of fundraising appeals	<u>(400,479)</u>	<u>(523,255)</u>
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	<u>665,547</u>	<u>1,168,985</u>

Note 7 Application of the net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals

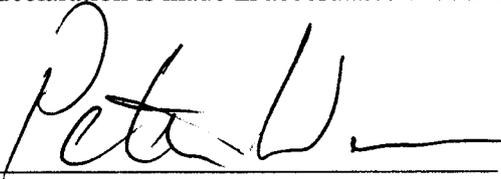
(i) Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	<u>665,547</u>	<u>1,168,985</u>
(ii) This was applied to the charitable purposes in contributing to payment of the following expenses:		
Expenditure on direct services	20,265,167	17,332,593
Expenditure on administration	<u>2,197,851</u>	<u>1,884,709</u>
	<u>22,463,018</u>	<u>19,217,302</u>
(iii) The shortfall of \$21,797,471 between the \$665,547 surplus available from fundraising appeals conducted and total expenditure of \$22,463,018 was provided from the following sources:		
Federal grants and subsidies	18,932,939	16,607,902
Membership, residence and school fees	2,066,448	1,778,065
Other income	<u>1,266,488</u>	<u>750,809</u>
	22,265,875	19,136,776
Deduct: operating surplus / add (deficit)	<u>(468,404)</u>	<u>(1,088,460)</u>
Shortfall provided from other sources	<u>21,797,471</u>	<u>18,048,316</u>

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (A company limited by guarantee)  
Directors' Declaration

The Directors of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) declare that the concise financial report of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2006, as set out on pages 32 to 39:

- a) complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports; and
- b) is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2006 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



P. Werner  
*Board Chair*

Dated this 19<sup>TH</sup> day of APRIL 2007 at Sydney.

Independent audit report to the members of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)  
(A company limited by guarantee)

## Scope

We have audited the concise financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the financial year ended 31 December 2006 set out on pages 34 to 42 in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Company. The Company's directors are responsible for the concise financial report.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the concise financial report is free of material misstatement. We have also performed an independent audit of the full financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2006 under the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991. Our audit report on the full financial report was signed on 19th April 2007.

Our procedures in respect of the audit of the concise financial report included testing that the information in the concise financial report is consistent with the full financial report and examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts, discussion and analysis, and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the full financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the concise financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039 "Concise Financial Reports".

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

## Independence

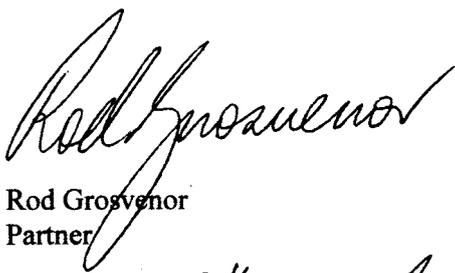
In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

In accordance with ASIC Class Order 05/83, we declare to the best of our knowledge and belief that the auditor's independence declaration set out on page 34 of the financial report has not changed as at the date of providing our audit opinion

## Audit opinion

In our opinion, the concise financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2006 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.

## **GROSVENOR SCHILIRO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**



Rod Grosvenor  
Partner

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April

2007 at Sydney

# Glossary

ASD	Autism spectrum disorder.
Aspect	Autism Spectrum Australia.
Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders	The national peak body representing people who have an autism spectrum disorder, their families, carers and helpers. <a href="http://www.autismaus.com.au">www.autismaus.com.au</a>
base school	One of Aspect's six Schools for Children with Autism. The base schools act as the administrative centre for their respective satellite classes.
BIS	Aspect's Behaviour Intervention Service is a specialist service for families, carers, schools and non-Government agencies who support children and adolescents with a disability who have an emerging or current challenging behaviour.
Board of Studies NSW	Serves government and non-government schools in the development of school education for Years K–12 through quality curriculum and awarding secondary school credentials, the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate. <a href="http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au">www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au</a>
BUILDING BLOCKS®	Aspect's early intervention services for families of children aged 0–6 years in the Sydney metropolitan region. BUILDING BLOCKS® services include family consultations; Building Links™ and sensory workshops; and home- and centre-based programs.
Building Links™	Education and support workshops for parents and carers of children (aged 0-6 years) with ASD.
DADHC	NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. <a href="http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au">www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au</a>
DET	NSW Department of Education and Training. <a href="http://www.det.nsw.edu.au">www.det.nsw.edu.au</a>
Early Play Program™	Aspect's BUILDING BLOCKS® home-based courses.
ECICP	Early Childhood Intervention Co-ordination Program. <a href="http://www.ecicp.com">www.ecicp.com</a>
FaCSIA	Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
mainstream school	A general government or non-government school.
NDS	National Disability Services Ltd. Formerly known as ACROD, this body is the national industry association for disability services, representing over 600 not-for-profit organisations. <a href="http://www.nds.org.au">www.nds.org.au</a>
NISSA	National Independent Special Schools Association. <a href="http://www.nissa.org.au">www.nissa.org.au</a>
Project CASS	Aspect's Coordinated Access to Services and Support project. The four-year demonstration project will provide case management and brokerage services to adolescents with ASD and their families in DADHC's Metro North region. It targets 12–18 year olds with high support needs who live at home.
Recipe for Success™	Aspect's BIS program providing education, training and support to parents and carers in regional locations.
satellite class	An Aspect autism-specific class based in a mainstream DET or Catholic Education Office primary or high school.
"Someone to turn to..."™	Aspect's volunteer parent support program. "Someone to turn to..."™ matches parents and carers of children with an ASD with volunteer parents and carers who can provide emotional and practical support. Support parents and carers are volunteer staff trained by Aspect, and matching is based on the age and needs of their children with ASD.
Starting Blocks™	Aspect's BUILDING BLOCKS® centre-based courses delivered in partnership with other agencies. Starting Blocks™ currently covers the Sydney, Ballina, Tweed, Casino, Byron Bay and Lismore areas.

# Become involved

Aspect depends on the community's support, as many programs are not funded by government. Your involvement will enable Aspect to continue to provide information, education and other services to people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and your community.

There are many ways you can become involved in Aspect's activities and make a difference.

You can find more information about how you can help Aspect on the website at [www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au), or by calling 1800 288 476 or completing the details below.

## Your details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please indicate whether you would like more information on:

- Joining Aspect's Monthly Giving Program
- Joining Aspect's Workplace Giving Program
- Becoming an Aspect Bequestor (including Aspect in your Will)
- Establishing an endowment fund
- Sponsoring an Aspect service for children with autism
- Buying Aspect greeting cards, Christmas cards and calendars
- Attending one of Aspect's community fundraising events (Comedy Night, Golf Days, Run the Bridge for Aspect)
- Becoming an Aspect volunteer

## Making a donation\*

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My cheque / money order is attached made payable to "Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)"

Please debit my credit card:  Once only  Monthly until further notice

Card type:  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Diners

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number:

Expiry date:   /

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. A receipt will be posted as per the details provided.

Please return this page by post to **Fundraising, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect),  
PO Box 361, FORESTVILLE NSW 2087** or fax to **02 8977 8399**.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) respects your privacy and complies with the National Privacy Principles, as detailed at [www.aspect.org.au/privacy.asp](http://www.aspect.org.au/privacy.asp).  
If you do not wish to receive any further mailings from us, please phone 1800 288 476 or email [donor.relations@aspect.org.au](mailto:donor.relations@aspect.org.au)



*overcoming the isolation of autism*

## Contact us

### Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

41 Cook Street (PO Box 361)  
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

**Phone** 02 8977 8300

**Fax** 02 8977 8399

**Web** [www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au)

**ABN** 12 000 637 267

## Artwork credits

**Front cover** Screenprint on paper by Thomas Stines

**Back cover** Screenprint on paper by Graham Knox

### Background textures for "Thank you to our supporters":

**Page 5** Acrylic on canvas by Brendon Sharpe

**Page 6** Acrylic on canvas by Nicholas Athanasi

**Page 8** Oil pastel on paper by Travis Jennings

**Pages 10–11** Acrylic and string on canvas by Patrick Benson

**Pages 12–13** Acrylic on canvas by Jonathon Israel

**Page 15** Acrylic on canvas by Kris Kotevski

**Page 16** Acrylic and pen on paper by Lloyd Watkins

The above artworks were featured in the Artism for Autism® 2007 Calendar which showcases art by adults with an autism spectrum disorder. The art pieces were produced in Aspect's Community Participation day programs for a highly successful Artism for Autism® exhibition, held in the Troy Horse Art Space (formerly The Jammy Gallery) during Autism Awareness Week in May 2006.

## Acknowledgements

Printed by



This Annual Report (2006) was written and designed in-house by Aspect.

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[www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au)

